

INSIDE THIS WEEK

National page A3
Black colleges among endangered sites

Lifestyles page B1
A special message for the graduates

ARTZ page B4
African Globe teaches theatre to youth

NEWS BRIEFS

Menendez secures funds for Joseph G. Minish Park

WASHINGTON — Representative Bob Menendez announced recently that he successfully secured \$5 million in federal funds for the Joseph G. Minish Waterfront Park in the \$20 billion Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill. The park will line the Passaic River and connect Newark's Penn Station, the new \$170 million New Jersey Performing Arts Center and the new major league baseball stadium.

The \$5 million secured for the project this year represents a \$2,000,000 increase over funds for the project in FY 1998. In total, the project will give \$75 million to be completed.

James Bryd Education fund is established in Harlem

NEW YORK (AP) — Boxing promoter Don King donated \$100,000 to an education fund set up in the name James Bryd Jr., the black man killed by three white men in Jasper, Texas.

At a memorial for Bryd at the Rev. Al Sharpton's National Action Network headquarters in Harlem, King said: "If we educate ourselves and if we learn to contribute and be with one another, we can rise to the occasion of bringing about a change that's much needed. Bryd's father was in New York for the memorial, who said his group will give \$50,000 to the education fund."

Jackson speaks out on morality, affirmative action

TACOMA, Wash. (AP) — In the wake of the gruesome racial killing in Texas, the Rev. Jesse Jackson made an emotional call for people to develop a sense of moral responsibility. "Such despicable horror is beyond description," Jackson said. "It happened in Jasper, Texas, but it could have happened anywhere." Of affirmative action, Jackson said it doesn't hurt people who already have opportunities, he said, but expands opportunities for those without.

Initiative 200, on November's ballot, would ban preferences for women and minorities in state government hiring, contracting and college admissions.

City of Orange braces for upcoming tax increase, lay-offs

ORANGE — Mayor Mims Hackett Jr. says his administration is putting together a lay-off and a demotion plan that he hopes will lessen the blow of a possible tax increase. Hackett says, as well, that his department is assessing their needs for the upcoming fiscal year.

Hackett acknowledges that Orange taxpayers cannot afford an increase but says that layoffs and demotions should help keep the anticipated hike at close to 2 percent.

Without layoffs, Hackett says, taxpayers could expect as much as a ten percent increase in taxes.

The plan is expected to target more than 20 employees who worked in the city's former Water Department and Welfare Department.

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Several reports confirm death penalty disparity

LOS ANGELES (NPPA) — It is time to move the story of racial discrimination in death penalty sentencing from Washington's official circles and put it on the lips of every Black American, says Maxine Waters, (D-Calif.) head of the Congressional Black Caucus. "The unfairness of how the penalty is applied needs to be the talk of our churches, our societies and anywhere else you can think of in our community," Rep. Waters said. The report "The Death Penalty in Black and White: Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Decides" has spurred concern over statistics of black deaths.

A companion report by Jeffrey Pokorak of St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, found that nearly all the decision-makers in capital punishment cases nationally are white. The Texas study found that in the 38 states that permit death sentencing, 98 percent of district attorneys are white. One percent each are black and Hispanic. In Texas, the study said, there are 137 White district attorneys, 11 Hispanics and no Blacks. "The implications of this study go far beyond the shocking numbers and racial isolation of those in this key law enforcement position," the report said.

In addition to asking the General Accounting Office to study why blacks are kept off juries in capital punishment cases, the Caucus will also ask the Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Black political think-tank based in Washington, D.C., to study how to elect more minorities as prosecutors and district attorneys.

In April, the United Nations angered the U.S. State Department by releasing a report that said the application of the death penalty in the U.S. is rooted by racism, economic discrimination, and politics. The report also called for a worldwide moratorium on capital punishment. Bacre Wily Ndiaye, a lawyer with the Paris-based Center for Senegal, concluded in his 54-page report that capital punishment, as administered in the U.S., operates outside international standards, and in some instances, in violation of international law.

First Union splits

Bank moves three-tenths of a mile out of black community



The merger between First Union Bank and CoreStates Bank has prompted the closing of this branch on Front Street in Plainfield; their only branch in the city's black community.

By Sonya Kimble-Elis

In November of '97, First Union Bank announced it was merging with CoreStates Bank. The merger was finalized in April of this year. For most customers, an initial question would be "Why the change?"

"Acquiring a greater regional presence is important for any bank," Marlene Lamberson, a spokeswoman for First Union said in an interview with City News. "The CoreStates acquisition helped us grow our market share."

What the acquisition has meant is the merging of a number of First Union and CoreStates bank branches throughout New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania. According to Lamberson, there are eleven branches that have been consolidated in Union County and three in Essex.

One such bank in this equation is the First Union Bank located on

Front Street in Plainfield. The bank, which closed and will be consolidated with the CoreStates bank at 247 Somerset Street, about three-tenths of a mile away. Though it seems evident that some jobs will be lost because of the merger, Lamberson assures that all of the employees at the Plainfield branch of First Union will be placed at other locations.

Lamberson says, as well, that First Union didn't have a preconceived idea about what branches would be consolidated. Some branches, she said, would be used because they might have nicer facilities or more parking.

Walter McNeil, City Administrator of Plainfield, feels it's unfortunate that the Plainfield branch will be closing. "A lot of banks are closing in urban areas," he says. "We see it as unfortunate because we believe we have a great customer base. We've got other banks in town and we'll be using those banks."

For customers the merger will mean change. "Customers need to know that they don't need to do anything," Lamberson notes. They will receive a personal letter with information about the First Union bank that will be handling their account. In most cases, Lamberson says, customers will have to travel less than a mile to another First Union branch.

"It's not about the distance one has to walk," says Jan Johnson, editor of City News. "It's about the loss of a structure which represents a flourishing economy. It's a travesty, in my opinion, that financial institutions talk about building urban communities in one breath and abandon them in the next, causing them to lose their jobs as well as tax dollars."

Banks affected by the merger will carry the First Union banner by the end of the year.

Dr. Betty Shabazz remembered

By Sonya Kimble-Elis

The one year anniversary of the death of Dr. Betty Shabazz, who died June 23, 1997 of burns she suffered from a fire set by gang member Malcolm, marks the passing of a woman who was and continues to be recognized by her many admirers.

Throughout her life, Shabazz surpassed being known simply as the widow of Malcolm X. She raised their two daughters, obtained a Ph.D. and taught for many years at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn. Shabazz was strongly involved in her community and across the country.

Her influence is evident in the new Simon & Schuster book, *Betty Shabazz: A Sisterhood's Tribute in Words and Pictures*, Edited by Jamie Foster Brown, the book has contributions from Whitney Houston, Myrtle Evers-Williams and Gloria Steinem.

On June 23, the Shabazz family along with Mayor Ernest D. Davis of Mount Vernon, NY hosted an outdoor celebration at Memorial Field Stadium in recognition of her life. On June 25, the anniversary of her passing was recognized with a blood drive at Carter Federal Savings Bank, Inner City Broadcasting and the Amsterdam News.

Several weeks ago, Gil Noble's "Like It Is" television program paid tribute to Shabazz with an interview



Dr. Betty Shabazz is being honored for her life's work.

That featured her daughter Ilyash Shabazz.

The Associated Press reports that Malcolm Shabazz, named after his grandfather Malcolm X, says he will do all he can to "make Mama Betty proud." He is currently serving a sentence of at least 18 months at a juvenile facility in Massachusetts. He was convicted last August of juvenile equivalents of manslaughter and arson for setting the blaze in her apartment.

David Dinkins, who represented the boy, said the 13-year-old is doing well under the circumstances.

King family asks for investigation

WASHINGTON (AP) — Without offering any guarantees, President Bill Clinton told the family of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. that he would do all he personally could about their request that he name a commission to look into the civil rights leader's slaying.

Clinton met at the White House with King's widow, Coretta Scott King, and three of her children. They have asked Clinton to appoint a commission to sort out the facts on King's death much like the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is sorting out information on crimes committed in South Africa under apartheid.

Mrs. King said they told the president they want the commission because they are "very troubled about the inconsistencies that we found" in the case over the years. She said a commission with power to grant amnesty and immunity from prosecution would be able to glean the facts from people "who are really afraid to come all the way out" with what they know.

"We believe that there is a moral order, and somehow in the long run that truth will win out," Mrs. King said afterward. "We want to know the

truth."

While they came away with no commitments, Mrs. King said she accepts Clinton's promise that he would "look into it as we see it, personally, as president could do."

"I know these things take time," she said. "My assumption is we would be hearing something in the not-too-distant future. At this point, I think that they are certainly challenged, they're thinking about it, they have to come up with some response."

White House spokesman Barry Toiv said Clinton is waiting for the Justice Department's review of the family's request, and for advice from White House lawyers on how he should proceed.

Of the meeting, Mrs. King said, "Each one of us did speak about our feelings... that we tried to ignore this for years... but it wouldn't go away. It's difficult for me to appreciate the fact that one lone person could engineer what he did in terms of his escape, and what I know about him not being a good shooter... and the fact that he was able to get out of the country. That's the one thing that really makes it very difficult for me to appreciate that one person could act alone."

Shapton leads protest against advertisers

NEW YORK (AP) — Black and Latino broadcasters led by the Rev. Al Sharpton are threatening to lead boycotts against advertisers that refuse to spend more money in ethnic media.

"We cannot tolerate an industry that makes money on our community but refuses to advertise in ethnic media," Sharpton said in an interview recently. Sharpton's voice could also be heard on radio spots calling for demonstrators to join him at a rally recently in front of Young & Rubicam's Madison Avenue office.

Sharpton, along with representatives of the National Association of

Black Owned Broadcasters and the Spanish Broadcasting System, planned to demand that Young & Rubicam, Macy's and PepsiCo Inc. justify their ethnic media advertising budgets. The companies had 10 days to respond to letters being delivered two weeks ago.

A spokesman for Macy's added that his company started advertising three years ago in a publishing group of seven minority newspapers, an effort recently involving Sharpton.

Ethnic media executives have been searching over an internal memo by the Katz Media Group that advised

clients to minimize advertising on stations with large black or Latino audiences because "advertisers want prospects, not suspects."

The coalition's strategy is to confront one advertising agency, one local advertiser and one national advertiser at a time. If the companies can prove they spend enough advertising dollars in ethnic media, the coalition will move on another three companies.

If the companies don't negotiate or provide adequate proof, the coalition will start broadcasting nationwide what products it wants its audience to boycott.

Joe Louis remembered for career and civil rights impact

DETROIT (AP) — Joe Louis' knock out of German boxer Max Schmeling 60 years ago was a bit felt around the world, providing a one-two punch to Adolf Hitler's platform of Aryan supremacy.

Although Schmeling and Louis later became friends, the June 22, 1938, fight was seen as proof that blacks and Jews were not inferior. It also provided inspiration to many of the people who helped celebrate the fight's anniversary at Cobo Center.

"He showed the world that we're all equal," said James Williams, 72, who was 12 years old when his family gathered around a

radio to listen to the fight in Fayetteville, N.C.

Born Joseph Louis Barrow on May 13, 1914, in Lexington, Ala., the future boxer's family moved to Detroit seeking jobs at the auto plants when he was 12. Louis' first professional fight was July 4, 1934.

Stuart Kirschenbaum, a former state boxing commissioner and on the board of directors for the Michigan Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, said the fight with Schmeling is still significant.

"I think it's important for the black community, the Jewish community and the community of the

world, to gather around and understand that this fight meant historically 60 years ago and still significantly what it means 60 years later," he said.

Professor Robert Weisbord, from the University of Rhode Island, teaches about the Holocaust and black history. He said Schmeling represented a fascist government, but didn't necessarily hold fast to those beliefs. Schmeling sent financial support to Louis' widow after he died and also is credited with helping to hide two Jewish boys from a night of terror in November of 1938. Weisbord said.

Black teens help boost graduate rate

WASHINGTON — Eighty-two percent of African Americans age 25 to 29 were high-school graduates in 1997, continuing an upward trend in the educational attainment of African Americans that began in 1940, according to a report released by the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

The gap in high-school completion between African Americans and whites narrowed to 25 to 29-year-old age group over the past decade to the point where there was no statistical difference in 1997.

"The educational attainment of young African Americans (ages 25 to 29) indicates a dramatic improve-

ment by groups who historically have been less educated," said Jennifer Day, author of the report.

The report, Educational Attainment in the United States: March 1997, P20-505, makes these other points:

• The proportion of the Hispanic population ages 25 and over with a high school or higher degree increased from 51 percent in 1987 to 55 percent in 1997.

• More than 4 in 10 (42 percent) of the Asian and Pacific Islander population ages 25 and over were college graduates; for Whites, it was 25 percent, and for African Americans, 13 percent.

Community Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

CRANFORD—Union County College offers a non-credit course on "Microsoft Office 97—Word 97." Part 1, from 7:10 to 8:10 p.m. 908-709-7600.

WESTFIELD—If your children are entering 3rd through 5th grade and are crazy about science, consider signing them up for the 4th Summer Science Program. The program has 4 sessions. Session 1 meets July 1, 8, 15, 29, and August 5, 12, and 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Union County Administrative Services Building at 300 North Avenue East. Call 908-654-9854 for details regarding the other remaining sessions.

STOKES STATE FOREST—Plan now to attend Union County 4-H Camp from Monday, July 20th to Friday, July 24th at Stokes State Forest. Boys and girls in grades 4 to 7 as of September 1998 are welcome to attend. 908-654-9854.

RIDGEWOOD—The funniest female in NJ contest will be held every Wednesday evening in July at 7:30 p.m. The contest will be held at the "WCA of Bergen County. 1-800-895-5580.

THURSDAY, JULY 2

ISELIN—A SingleFaces dance party will be held at 9 p.m. at the Woodbridge Hilton. 732-462-2406.

MONTCLAIR—The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Montclair Municipal Bldg. from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to process passports, notary public oaths, ABC identification cards (no senior IDs), veterans licenses, and filing of physicians licenses. You must provide your own photos.

FRIDAY, JULY 3

NEW YORK—Maoy's 4th of July fireworks brings Star-Banged excitement to the nation beginning at approximately 9 p.m.

ATLANTA—The first National Multicultural Foodservice and Hospitality Alliance conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel from August 4th-6th. 512-677-6914.

ELIZABETH—The City of Elizabeth will be holding its Second Annual Fireworks show at the Veteran's Memorial Waterfront Park on Front Street. 908-620-4170.

SATURDAY, JULY 4

PHILADELPHIA—Celebrate the art of independence in Philadelphia at the Pennsylvania Convention Center and other festival sites in Philadelphia. Call

Send events to: CN Community Calendar, P.O. Box 1774, Plainfield, N.J. 07060 or FAX to: 908-753-1036

1-800-770-5883 for more information.

EDISON—A SingleFaces dance party will be held 8 p.m. at The Pines Manor. 732-462-2406.

MONDAY, JULY 6

CRANFORD—Union County College offers a non-credit course on "Microsoft Office 97—Word 97." Part 2, from 7:10 to 8:10 p.m. 908-709-7600.

CALDWELL—Caldwell College offers an intensive summer English language program through July 31st to assist individuals in learning English. 973-229-4624, ext. 505.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

CRANFORD—Union County College offers a non-credit course on "Microsoft Office 97—Word 97." Part 2, from 7:10 to 8:10 p.m. 908-709-7600.

CALDWELL—The Office of the County Clerk will be at the Caldwell Town Hall Bldg. from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to process passports, notary public oaths, ABC identification cards (no senior IDs), veterans licenses, and filing of physicians licenses. You must provide your own photos.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

NEW YORK—The 1998 Mobil African American Women on Tour will be in New York for a Black women's empowerment conference at the Brooklyn Marriott. 1-800-560-2298.

SATURDAY, JULY 11

SCOTCH PLAINS—A bus trip to Kings Dominion and Baltimore Harbor will be happening through July 12th. Leaving from Plainfield Ave. & Park Place in Scotch Plains 7 a.m. sharp and returning Sunday, July 12 about 11 p.m. 908-754-5289.

ELIZABETH—Community Access Unlimited will hold a flea market from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the agency's headquarters, located at 80 West Grand Street. 908-354-3040, ext. 275.

MONDAY, JULY 13

CRANFORD—Union County College offers a non-credit course on "Microsoft Office 97—Word 97." Part 1, from 7:10 to 8:10 p.m. 908-709-7600.

MAHWAH—The 21st Annual A&P Tennis Classic, featuring many of the biggest names in women's professional tennis, open. The week long tournament continues through Sunday, July 19th at the Croswater Corporate Center. 201-625-9100.

Newark Best Friends girls honored



NEWARK—Over 315 Newark Best Friends girls were honored recently at recognition ceremonies at Harold Wilson School, Miller Street School, Peahine Avenue School and George Washington Carver School. These young women have made a commitment to their futures by agreeing to reject drugs and postpone sex. Throughout the year, Best Friends girls participate in weekly physical fitness/aerobic sessions, bi-monthly classes that include a unique curriculum with lessons on friendship, drugs and alcohol, love and dating, decision making, self respect, STD's and AIDS.

Pamela Morgan accepts 1998 Leadership award



BASKING RIDGE—Pamela Morgan of the Newark Public Schools accepts the 1998 Education Leadership Award for the school system's innovative use of technology to promote family involvement in education. Presenting the award are Joan Fenwick (L), Director of the AT&T Learning Network, Dr. Robert Boose, Executive Director of New Jersey School Boards Association, and Carroll Miller, Co-founder and Vice President of Family Education Company. Morgan accepted the award at a June 3 ceremony at AT&T's headquarters in Basking Ridge, NJ.

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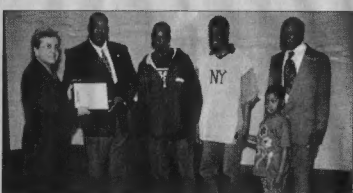
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President Carlisle, Jr. honored for community service work



ELIZABETH—Mr. President Carlisle Jr., of Hillsdale, Housing Coordinator with the Union County Economic Development Department's Community Development Division, at left, is presented with a Resolution by Freeholder Lewis Mingo Jr. Carlisle was honored with a Resolution upon being chosen to receive the 1998 Community Service Award of the Union County Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club, Inc.

Patric Morris saves consumer over \$50,000



WESTFIELD—The Union County Board of Chosen Freeholders and County Manager Michael Lapolla congratulated Department of Public Safety employee Patric Morris of Union upon becoming the county's Employee of the Month for May. Patric, a senior investigator for the county's Division of Consumer Affairs in Westfield, was recognized for his efforts which, through contracts of voided, refunds, exchanges effected and seeing to the completion of jobs saved consumers (primarily senior citizens) over \$50,000. Pictured, from left, are County Manager Michael J. Lapolla presents a Certificate of Appreciation to Patric Morris. Joining Patric are his children Greg, Albert and Joy and Patric's father Ian Morris. Not pictured: Patric's wife Patricia.

City News is glad to highlight our community people every week

Send your photos and information to:
City News People, P.O. Box 1774,
Plainfield, N.J. 07060

Winners of foul shooting contest



Sergio Villamizar (left), Jersey City State College fitness center coordinator, presented trophies to three of six winners in the College's foul shooting contest: Lavana May (right of Beyonno), a JCSJ junior majoring in early childhood education who placed first in the female division by making 21 out of 25 shots; Tara Mitchell of Hoboken, a JCSJ junior majoring in sociology who placed second, making 19 out of 25 shots; and Lauchland Richards of Irvington, a JCSJ graduate student majoring in special education who placed third in the male division with 17 out of 20 shots.

Dr. Alexander appointed provost/v.p. for academic affairs at Kean University

UNION—Dr. Livingston Alexander has been appointed provost/v.p. for academic affairs at Kean University, effective August 17.

As the University's chief academic officer, Dr. Alexander's administrative responsibilities at Kean will include budgeting, planning, development, review and coordination of all academic programs and services. A major responsibility of the provost in the coming years will be to guide the implementation of a new University Strategic Plan, particularly in the areas of technology, diversity, program development, enrollment management and external development activities.

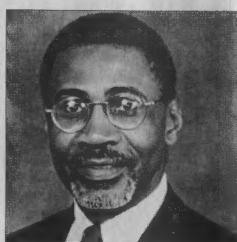
Dr. Alexander currently serves as vice president for academic affairs at Troy State University Montgomery (TSUM) in Montgomery, Alabama, a post he has held since 1994. His accomplishments include implementing a major component of the university's Vision 96 strategic plan and assuming a major role in developing the succeeding Focus 2000 plan. He has also led the university initiative to convert from a quarter to semester system by Fall 1999, and has provided leadership and support for the national accreditation of numerous academic programs.

"We are privileged to have Dr. Alexander join Kean University community. His wealth of experience in higher education will prove invaluable as Kean embraces the challenges of the 21st century," said University President Ronald Applebaum.

Dr. Alexander has more than 30 years of experience in higher education management, serving for four years as associate vice president for academic affairs at Western Kentucky University, where he also was director of Graduate Studies and professor of Psychology. He also served as department head and professor for Georgia Southern University's Educational Foundations and Curriculum. A Louisiana native, he holds a B.A. from St. Joseph Seminary College and an M.Ed. and Ed.D. from the University of Houston.

Declared Dr. Alexander, "I look forward to joining the faculty and staff of Kean University to advance the mission and strategic planning agenda outlined by the university."

The Kean provost is widely published and a frequent presenter on diversity and leadership issues. Since 1992, he has served as a faculty/leader for the American Council of Education's Council of Education Fellowship program and as chairman of the National Association of Colleges and Schools, Commission on Colleges.



Dr. Livingston Alexander

NOTICE TO POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF DISCRIMINATION AT HILLCREST VILLAGE APARTMENTS AND LEXINGTON VILLAGE APARTMENTS

On April 8, 1998, the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey entered an order resolving a lawsuit brought by the United States Department of Justice against the owners, managers and rental agents of Hillcrest Village Apartments and Lexington Village Apartments in Clark, New Jersey. The lawsuit alleged that the defendants had discriminated against black persons who sought rental housing there. Under this order, you may be entitled to receive monetary relief if you asked about or applied for renting, or rented, an apartment at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments and:

1. You were denied an opportunity to live there because of your race or color or the race or color of someone who would be living with you or
2. You were falsely told that no apartments were available because of your race or color or the race or color of someone who would be living with you; or
3. You were otherwise discriminated against on the basis of race or color in connection with your occupancy at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments or your attempt to rent a unit there.

If you believe you were discriminated against because of race or color at Hillcrest Village Apartments or Lexington Village Apartments, or if you have any information about persons who may have been discriminated against there on the basis of race or color, please contact the United States Department of Justice at 1-800-896-7743. You may also write to:

United States Department of Justice
Civil Rights Division
Housing and Civil Enforcement Section
P.O. Box 65998
Washington, D.C. 20035-5998

NOTE: You must call or write no later than ninety (90) days from August 8, 1998.

NATIONAL/WORLD BRIEFS

ATTORNEY PRESENTS NEW TWIST IN COSBY MURDER CASE

SANTA MONICA, Calif. (AP) — The attorney for a Ukrainian immigrant charged with murdering Ennis Cosby said he will tell jurors that a man who was with Malcolm X was the night hit Cosby's son was gunned down is the true culprit.

Public defender Henry Hall said when he gives his opening statement, he will name El Zakaria, 24, as the likely killer of the 27-year-old Cosby.

Hall says the statements at a pretrial hearing on a prosecutor's request to bar Hall from shifting the blame to Zakaria. After hearing both sides, Superior Court Judge David Perez rejected the request.

Zakaria, a convicted robber, was with Martin Luther King Jr. in the area where Cosby was shot on Jan. 16, 1997, Hall said. He was arrested and charged along with Martin Luther King Jr.

NAACP CALLS FOR BOYCOTT OF Kmart AND AMOCO

BENSALEM, Pa. (AP) — The Bucks County NAACP is calling for a boycott against Kmart and Amoco businesses in the county following two recent incidents in which black customers were wrongly suspected of committing crimes.

"We have to take a stand and say this is not how to treat all people of color," said Marcia DeVore, county NAACP president.

Letters asking local NAACP members to boycott Bucks County Kmart and Amoco stores were sent out this week, said DeVore, as well as requests for other local chapters to support the boycott.

"Of course these sort of complaints get our attention, and we'll look at it right away," said Stephen Pagnani, a spokesman in Kmart's Michigan headquarters.

SOUTH AFRICA LAUNCHES REGIONAL INVESTMENT PLAN

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Mozambique, Swaziland and South Africa have started a regional tourism investment scheme to attract visitors to the Lubombo area, a scenic area on the borders of three countries. The project, part of the \$110 million Lubombo development project, will see the exploitation of the recently declared world heritage site at St. Lucia in KwaZulu Natal, the Beit Lake system and the Mozambican tourist resort of Ponta do Ouro.

The project will see the development of two parks running across borders, says Jan Coetzee of the department of tourism.

REPORT CARD ISSUED ON SENATE, HOUSE, VOTING

WASHINGTON — NAACP President Kweisi Mfume recently released the organization's annual Legislative Report Card at a news conference on Capitol Hill that showed legislative performance on important civil rights votes.

The NAACP Legislative Report is the second step in the Association's three-step political election/voter empowerment efforts for the 1998 election cycle. Those steps include voter registration, voter education and voter turnout. All NAACP state conferences and local branches will use the Report Card to further evaluate the performance of their congressional representatives and effect change at the polls.

AUTO INDUSTRY URGED TO INCLUDE MINORITIES

DETROIT (AP) — Members of the auto industry have a "notoriously" bad record of excluding minorities and poor whites from the corporate level, the Rev. Jesse Jackson said recently.

Jackson said he might initiate a boycott of five companies he says haven't given the underserved fair upper level employment opportunities. Companies, including automakers and suppliers, expect minorities to be the consumers and lower level workers, but fail to give them leadership positions, he said.

Historically black colleges listed among endangered sites

ORANBURG, S.C. (AP) — Historically black colleges and universities in South Carolina need nearly \$30 million to renovate their oldest buildings.

Officials from the seven schools met with legislators and U.S. Sen. Jim Clyburn, (D-S.C.), recently at Clifton College to raise public awareness about the buildings' plight.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation has agreed to list the college buildings among the country's 11 most endangered sites in the education-institution category.

"I believe this gives us the incentive to redouble our efforts to make sure they

not only remain part of our history, but also part of our nation's existence," said Clyburn, a graduate of nearby South Carolina State.

One example is Minister's Hall, a two-story brick building near Clifton College's entrance. The former dining hall, built in 1919, is boarded up.

Clyburn said he hopes the federal government can provide as much as half of the cost of renovating historic buildings. The total price tag nationwide amounts to about \$755 million, according to a General Accounting Office study. In South Carolina, it is near \$47.5 million for buildings at South Carolina State, Allen University, Ben-

edict College, Clifton College, Denmark Technical College, Morris College and Voorhees College.

Clyburn plans to convert Minister's Hall into a performing arts center, but still needs \$2 million. The possibility of getting federal money will brighten the outlook for the school's five-year, \$20 million, fund-raising push, President Henry Tisdale said.

Remember, this listing is not just about Clifton College. Each institution has its own challenges they have to face to preserve historic structures on their campuses," said Sierra Neal of the National Trust's regional office in Charleston.

Next door to Clifton, a few historic

buildings at South Carolina State also have been abandoned. "We would benefit immensely from matching dollars," South Carolina State President Leroy Davis said.

Clyburn already has secured about \$800,000 toward a \$1.6 million-plus restoration of the long-shuttered Arnette Hall at Allen University in Columbia.

Michael Allen of the South Carolina African American Heritage Council said colleges and universities should ensure that their eligible properties are added to the National Register of Historic Places.

"That's very important for recognizing the importance of them," he said.

Clinton advisory board sees need for additional work on race initiative

WASHINGTON (AP) — Realizing the year was not enough time, President Clinton's advisory board recently debated the idea of keeping his national race initiative alive through a new "president's council" devoted to racial concerns.

In their final meeting, board members said they have identified thousands of efforts in which people are successfully resolving racial conflicts. They concluded that there must be a mechanism for these efforts to reach areas of the country where racial tension or isolation remains a problem.

"There must be a government structure to support this cause of leaders," the Rev. Susan Johnson Cook said in proposing the idea.

Telling how a white man once mistook him for a hotel valet, board Chairman John Hope Franklin said a presidential council could also be used to address matters of the heart and people's values.

"There's a problem here that's not

involving poverty," Franklin said.

"Something's the matter in this man's mind that we must address."

The board did not offer specifics about the council such as funding, structure or size. Franklin cautioned that the ideas discussed are merely ideas and likely would be amended before being presented to Clinton.

Franklin opened the meeting with a statement of sympathy to the family of James Byrd Jr., the man dragged to death in Jasper, Texas, Franklin said the "shocking and horrible circumstances of Byrd's death are not an aberration, especially for black men."

In addition to a president's council, other proposals for extending the race initiative have included a foundation, another board or an assigned staff adviser devoted totally to issues of race. Clinton has said he expects his One America initiative to last longer than a year, and aides have said he intends to keep it going in some form through the remaining two years of his term.



Race Initiative Advisory Board Chairman John Hope Franklin opened the Race Initiative Council meeting with a statement of sympathy to the family of lynching victim James Byrd, Jr.

term. "These issues are part of the American fabric," said Elaine Jones, chair of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. "We can applaud his establishment of a race commission, but he also must have someone on his immediate staff who has credibility with the American people on the subject of racial justice — so he himself can hear these questions."

Board members will look closely at the information it gathered in four areas — education, economic opportunity, leadership and values — and while drawing their ideas so they can begin drafting their report to the president.

The board's report, expected in September, will be used as a point of departure for Clinton, who will write his own report dealing the status of race relations in America and his vision for a future in which no racial group will be a majority of the U.S. population. Clinton's report is due at the end of the year.

Preparing a global war on drugs

NEW YORK — African American leaders and prominent international leaders have joined forces to declare "the global war on drugs" is now causing more harm than drug abuse itself. NAACP President Kweisi Mfume, Rev. Calvin Butts, Rev. Floyd Flake, Rev. Leon Sullivan, Mayor Willie Brown, veteran journalist Walter Cronkite, joined former Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders, and Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke and more than 500 others in saying that continuing current policies "will only result in more drug abuse, more empowerment of drug markets, criminals and more disease and suffering."

Ministers, doctors, policemen, scholars and other experts signed an open letter coordinated by The Lindesmith Center, a drug policy research center widely recognized as a leading authority on drug policy issues.

The debate on drug policy has been restricted in this country, with those who speak out for open debate and alternatives often vilified, and falsely accused of "surrendering" or "opening the door to drug legalization." The public letter written to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan concludes by appealing for "a truly open and honest dialogue regarding the future of global control policies — one in which fear, prejudice and punitive prohibitions yield to common sense, science, public health and human rights."

The following is a portion of the open letter sent to Secretary General Annan, United Nations:

Dear Secretary General, On the occasion of the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Drugs in New York on June 26, 1998, we seek your leadership in stimulating a frank and honest evaluation of global drug control efforts.

We are all deeply concerned about the threat that drugs pose to our children, our fellow citizens and our societies. There is no choice but to work together, both within our countries and across borders, to reduce the



Reverend Calvin Butts joins the constituency of pastors, politicians, figures and others in the war on drugs.

harm associated with drugs. The United Nations has a legitimate and important role to play in this regard but only if it is willing to ask and address tough questions about the success or failure of its efforts.

We believe that the global war on drugs is now causing more harm than drug abuse itself. Every decade the United Nations adopts new international conventions, focused largely on criminalization and punishment, that restrict the ability of individual nations to devise effective solutions to local drug problems. Every year governments enact more punitive and costly drug control measures. Every day politicians endorse harsher new drug war strategies.

What is the result? U.N. agencies estimate the annual revenue generated by the illegal drug industry at \$400 billion, or the equivalent of roughly eight percent of total international trade.

Mr. Secretary General, we appeal to you to initiate an open and honest dialogue regarding the future of global drug control policies — one in which fear, prejudice and punitive prohibitions yield to common sense, science, public health and human rights.

Leaders show support for Alexis Herman

WASHINGTON — A coalition of national leaders announced their support for U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Alexis M. Herman at a press conference held recently at the National Press Club. Sponsored by the Black Leadership Forum, Inc., the press conference participants included: Dr. Joseph E. Lowery, chairman of the Black Leadership Forum; Dr. Dorothy Height, Congresswoman Charles Rangel (D-N.Y.) and Elena Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) and Patric

Ireland, president, National Organization of Women.

Several speakers criticized the "unjust and erroneous vilification of Herman" by the special independent counsel which has resulted in the "unjust and erroneous vilification of Herman" and a "public trial by media."

Herman is the latest senior administration official in the Clinton government to face investigation by an independent counsel.

Ikatha Party prepares for elections

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — A major black opposition leader jump-started campaigning for the 1999 elections recently, attacking President Nelson Mandela's party for failing to deliver on its promises.

Ikatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi told 2,000 followers in downtown Johannesburg that for his part, he would make no promises he could not keep.

"I cannot promise that I alone, the IFP alone, or anybody alone, can save South Africa from the many problems threatening it," Buthelezi told his followers, some carrying traditional Zulu shields and spears.

Even though Mandela hasn't set an election date, the gathering had every appearance of a campaign rally. IFP policy manuals and T-shirts emblazoned with the party's new symbol, a family of elephants, were distributed at the rally.

Mandela's African National Congress is heavily favored to win the nation's second all-race elections, but the party is vulnerable for leaving some campaign promises unfulfilled. It had promised to build a million homes for poor blacks by 1999. Less than half have been built.

"I do not believe that people can be fooled for long," Buthelezi said.

The AF is also vulnerable because it is faced with the huge task of dramatically improving the lives of millions of formerly disenfranchised South Africans with a limited budget.

Buthelezi serves as Home Affairs Minister in the ANC-led government, but the parties remain bitter rivals. More than 10,000 people have died in fighting between ANC and IFP supporters in KwaZulu-Natal, a province dominated by Ikatha, over the past decade.

Subscribe to CITY NEWS 908-754-3400

Defining who we are

Far from the stereotypes that portray black people daily in the media, black folk are law-abiding God-fearing people who value family, education, and quality living.

Now more than ever, black people must come together across religions, organizations, fraternal orders, professions, communities to make a firm statement about who we are, what we stand for, and what we will do to achieve our collective goals of Religious Freedom, equal protection under the law, civil and voting rights, quality education for all black children, quality housing, jobs, access to opportunity and economic development in black communities.

Following in the tradition of the Black Press, City News continues to strive to be the source of black issues, concerns and achievements.

During March, Black Press Month, City News launches The Network, a partnership to unite and inform people throughout New Jersey about the progress of New Jersey's black communities and the people who make it happen.

For more information, call 908.754.3400 to obtain The Network guide or fax us at 908.753.1036.

Wells Fargo announces \$1 billion loan commitment to Black businesses

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

BALTIMORE—A two-day Business Writing & Grammar Skills workshop at the Monmouth Community College will be held on Monday, July 6, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration and cost: \$10. Call 410-252-7446.

MONDAY, JULY 5

NEWARK—NJN Public Television presents "Employment New Jersey" at 7:00 p.m. Shows are re-broadcast Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

NEW YORK—A Dyson College of Arts and Sciences Master of Science in Publishing graduate seminar information session at the New York Midtown Center. Session held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more info, call 212-346-1531.

CRAWFORD—Classes in Microsoft Word 6.0, Word Perfect 6.1, Excel 5.0 and DOS Applications will be offered in Spanish. Classes will be offered at varied times through August 17. For more info, call 908-709-7600.

MONMOUTH—Marketing and Business Development seminars for the 12th Annual Regional Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call the University of Scranton at 717-941-4123.

THURSDAY, JULY 9

UNION—Sign up for several training seminars at Union County Economic Development Corp. Seminars include Central Contractor Registration, CARC, Integrated Manufacturing and Building. For more information, call 908-527-1186.

CRAWFORD—Learn the "Dynamics of Inventory Management" at Union County College. Course runs through August 24. For more information, call 908-709-7600.

NEW YORK—"Fundamentals of Personal Finance" - a course presented at New York University through July 25. For more information, call 212-998-7050.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15

UNION—The New Jersey Technology Best 50 Awards Breakfast acknowledges the 50 fastest growing technology companies in New Jersey. For more information, call 978-262-8237 ext. 224.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29

WHITE PLAINS—Professional Women in Construction will present a business networking event for design and construction professionals from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Send business events to:
Business Calendar
City News
P.O. Box 1774
Plainfield, NJ 07061

SAN FRANCISCO (Businesswire) Wells Fargo Bank recently announced that it is establishing a \$1 billion loan program to fund the growth and expansion of African American small businesses across the United States.

The first of its kind, this loan commitment extends for the next 12 years to established African American small business owners.

"Wells Fargo has created this program to help that African American small business owners have access to credit for their businesses," said Edie Booker, senior vice president and community development officer for Wells Fargo. "As a leader in small business banking, we are always seeking innovative businesses and ready potential small business customers."

To obtain information about how

to get credit under the African American Loan Program, small business owners can sign on to "NetNoir Online" (www.netnoir.com/wellsfargo). The site provides a "self-test" consisting of eight questions to help small businesses determine if they qualify for a business loan. Business owners whose answers match the bank's criteria are routed to a secured site where they provide contact information

so a Wells Fargo representative can call them to apply for credit. Those whose answers do not match the bank's criteria are provided with information designed to help them take steps to qualify for business credit.

Small business owners interested in obtaining information about applying for the loan program may also call 1-888-293-5254.

Financial planning and the civic sector

Dale G. Caldwell

One of the best ways to reduce your taxable income is to give money in an in-kind donation (clothes, furniture, etc.) to a non-profit organization that has received 501(c)(3) status (which enables contributors to deduct contributions from their income). Unfortunately, most people give money to these "civic-sector" organizations—without knowing what the civic sector is. In this article, I define the civic sector and the ways that you will consider contributing more to your favorite civic sector organization to help revitalize your local community.

Most people understand the role of governments and corporations in society and therefore have heard of the "public" and "private" sectors. However, few people know anything about a third sector of society that is focused on meeting the needs of citizens in local communities. This third sector is called the "civic sector" and includes non-profit organizations, faith institutions, foundations, private schools, theaters, volunteer groups, sports leagues and any other group that is not operated by government or corporations that are not controlled by government. This third sector is often erroneously considered part of the public sector. However, the public sector is comprised of governmental organizations that are funded primarily by tax revenue. Civic sector organizations are not controlled by government and are not funded by tax revenue.

When the civic sector is recognized as a legitimate third sector it is often called the "independent" or "volunteer" sector. However, the civic sector is not "independent" because it relies on funds from governments and corporations to operate. Moreover, the people who are most involved in the civic sector are paid by non-profit organizations and cannot be classified as volunteers. Therefore, it cannot be considered a "volunteer" sector. This third sector is called the civic sector because organizations contained within it are focused on serving the needs of specific civic communities and not the needs of citizens. Civic sector organizations are generally not focused on meeting the needs of the public as a whole (like public sector organizations).

tion) or on commerce (like private sector organizations). Instead, civic sector organizations utilize paid and volunteer staff to fill the civic void left by public and private organizations.

How important is this sector to American society? It is estimated that the civic sector accounts for nine percent of the national employment and has total assets valued at \$500 billion. The expenditures of American civic sector organizations exceed the gross national product of all but seven nations. Most people are not aware that there are more than 14 million civic sector organizations in the United States meeting the needs of citizens in local communities. Most importantly, these organizations are playing an important role in assisting elderly, indigent, handicapped and homeless citizens as well as supporting the interests of other citizens in the arts, youth sports leagues, etc. However, in spite of the size and breadth of the civic sector it has received little recognition as a viable third sector in society by academicians, economists, business persons and politicians.

If we hope to seriously eliminate problems like unemployment, poverty, crime, drug use, homelessness and homelessness we must recognize the civic sector as a legitimate third sector in society and empower civic sector organizations to address these problems in local communities. The solution to many of our society's most significant problems is the civic sector organizations designed to address local problems in a manner that is best suited to local communities. My hope is that you will understand the importance of civic sector organizations in solving the major problems in your local communities and contribute accordingly. By supporting civic sector organizations you can help your community and reduce your taxes at the same time.

If you would like more information about the civic sector please feel free to call me at 212-439-4649.

Dale Caldwell is the National Recruiting Director for Deloitte & Touche Consulting Co.

Payne enhances U.S. trade opportunities



Union County Freeholder Chester Holmes of Rahway, at right, presents a Resolution on behalf of the County Board of Chosen Freeholders to Congressman Donald Payne, acknowledging Payne's continuous efforts to enhance trade opportunities between Africa and the United States during the Symposium on Building Public and Private Support for U.S. and Africa Linkage.

Tax amnesty bill clears first committee

TRENTON—A bill to offer a sales tax amnesty program to small businesses and allow them to pay back taxes in installments was approved by the Assembly Commerce committee recently.

The bill would apply to New Jersey sales tax liabilities for returns due between 1987 and 1997. It would establish a 90-day period during which a business could pay, or begin to pay, the tax without any interest, collection costs, and any civil or criminal penalties. The bill would apply to all businesses that have 50 or fewer employees and are required to collect sales tax.

The state offered a tax amnesty program in 1994, but that program required the full payment within the 90-day amnesty period.

The installment payments must be completed within five years and must be made monthly.

If a business fails to pay taxes due during the period, fails to enter into an installment agreement, or fails to make payments under an agreement, a five percent penalty will be imposed in addition to all other penalties, interest or collection costs.

The bill now goes to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for consideration.

Black people respond to targeted marketing campaigns

According to a report by Packaged Facts, black people are highly receptive to financial services that are marketed to them. Example: Deluxe Corporation, by creating a check series commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King, exceeded their market projections by 15%.

*Packaged Facts is a product of FTD/SVP Research Publications Group

Economic empowerment and enslavement

By Lee Hubbard

In *Economic Empowerment or Economic Enslavement* we Have A Choice, Author James Clingman brings to you a powerful and powerful economic message in hopes that the "black community" can use it to prosper in the 21st century.

Broken down into nine sections, "Economic Empowerment" is an easy read that talks about economic empowerment both historically and from a contemporary viewpoint. Clingman's talk of economic development, and self-help is nothing new within the Black community. This message has been given a million times by different leaders from diverse backgrounds and ideologies. But it is sorely needed since Blacks spend 95 percent of their \$400 billion annual income outside our community.

"Now is the time not to suffer, but now is the time for us as a race to prove to the world that we have the ability and the inclination to do it on our own terms. Developing, manufacturing and trading in the natural resource or our country," said Booker T. Washington, in 1912. "Let us act before it is too late, before others come from foreign lands and rob us or our birthright."

It is in this tradition that Clingman extols the Black community that charity begins at home. The former editor of the Black weekly, the *Cincinnati Star*, he leads by example. After he attended the historic Million Man March in Washington D.C. in 1995, Clingman set up Cincinnati's first African American Chamber of Commerce. Now, two

years later, the Chamber has 500-plus members.

But the process has not been trouble free. In the beginning Clingman met with resistance from "friends of the black community" as well as from people in the black community who were resistant to the idea.

"When we established our African American Chamber of Commerce in Cincinnati, Ohio, the most frequently asked question was, 'Why do we need a black Chamber of Commerce,'" writes Clingman. "It was not asked of the Taiwan Chamber, the Hispanic Chamber or any of the other five chambers of commerce in the area. Why ask it of black people? Fear sets in when Black people even think about organizing economically."

Even after the chamber got started, Clingman's group had to break a negative perception that Blacks have of doing business with each other.

"It is unfortunate that some of us start immediately to measure, compile, analyze, and chronicle the mistakes of Black businesspersons and never do the same to businesses owned by others," writes Clingman. "Certainly most of us have been ripped off at least one in our lives and some of us get it even more frequently. However we tend to punish our own people for the faults and make excuses for everyone else. That does not make much sense, especially if we want to gain parity in the marketplace."

And Clingman doesn't just rest there. He writes that black businesses have to do more than hold out the black business mantra. "You should not want people to

support you just because you are black," writes Clingman. "You should want people to support your business because you are good at what you do."

Black business leaders need to stop using the excuse that their businesses are doing badly due to a lack of access to capital, but in most cases this isn't the reason why they fail, he said.

"In many cases small businesses fail because of improper planning, management, and professional research," writes Clingman. "Many business owners are unwilling to invest their own limited resources in very things that will make them succeed, such as accounting, legal matters, marketing, and other very useful functions or any successful business."

Clingman advocates Blacks using black lawyers, doctors, dentists, contractors, and other black professionals. In turn these black professionals and businesses should support black newspapers, radio stations and black television stations and other black businesses.

"If African Americans would simply spend 25 percent of their income in black-owned businesses, we would see an economic turnaround like none other in history," writes Clingman. "Doing business with one another is simple. Take a look at the Jewish people, look at the Koreans, watch the Arab people, the Chinese, the Japanese, the Cubans, the Mexicans. They are about one another to support quality businesses and to provide quality businesses and services."

"Economic Empowerment" is a call to arms to support existing black businesses, to develop more and to support other businesses that support the black community.

For more information on the book, you can call 513-489-4132.

Increasing minority access to the Internet

By Vice President Al Gore

As a nation, we cannot afford to have some of our children use the educational tools of the 21st Century while others are left behind to use the limited resources of the last century.

Today, unfortunately, we have a digital divide. In 1997, students in predominantly minority schools were three times less likely to have Internet access in the classroom than those in predominantly white schools. This figure is particularly alarming in light of the fact that by the year 2000, nearly 60 percent of all jobs will require information technology skills.

That is why the E-rate program is so important. Under it, schools and libraries receive discounts of 20 to 90 percent on telecommunications services, internal connections and Internet access—with the deepest discounts going to the poorest urban and rural schools.

The E-rate is critical to our effort to put computers in every classroom and library, giving every child the tools to succeed. Children in every school in America—regardless of where they live, how much their family earns, or the color of their skin—should have access to this very important and essential educational tool.

BET purchases line of black romance novels

NEW YORK—Robert L. Johnson, Chairman and CEO of BET Holdings Inc., and Walter Zacharius, Chairman of Kensington Publishing Corporation have announced BET's purchase of Arabeque, Kensington's line of African-American romance novels.

The sale, for an undisclosed amount, will include the ongoing Arabeque publishing program of four new books each month, an extensive list of over 150 titles and the Arabeque Book Club. The Arabeque Book Club is the fastest growing club in the Kensington group. BET has also secured the dramatic rights to Arabeque Books for possible television and film development.

2 great ways to reach the African-American Business & Professional Community



Minority Business Journal

The *Minority Business Journal* is a monthly publication focusing on minority and women business enterprise in New Jersey and New York City. *MBJ* regularly features the accomplishments of minority and women businesspersons, information concerning maintaining and expanding business, opportunities available for minority entrepreneurs, a calendar of events, editorial and commentary—issues facing minority businesses. *MBJ* offers an excellent forum for classified and display advertising and special business and professional card directories. *MBJ* provides an important communication link in the information network vital to the growth and economic development of minority communities.

Minority Business-to-Business Directory

The *Minority Business-to-Business Directory* is a directory of minority- and woman-owned businesses and companies committed to doing business with minorities. The *Directory* networks minority businesses, identifies minority and women businesses with whom public and private sector businesses and agencies can contract for products and services, and exposes a growing force of minority businesses to the general consumer. The *Directory* features listings and advertising as well as provides a resource guide for minority and women entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs to help facilitate starting and maintaining a business. The *Minority Business-to-Business Directory* includes listings from public and private sector businesses and agencies, minority and woman-owned businesses and small businesses. A delineation of ownership is provided with each listing. The *Minority Business-to-Business Directory* is a tool for the growth and expansion of minority and women entrepreneurs and economic development in the African-American community.

Call (908) 754-3400 for more information

Minority Business Journal & Minority Business-to-Business Directory opens up a whole new world of possibility

Local Briefs

Best to be sworn in for second term Wednesday July 1.

IRVINGTON—Sara B. Bost will be officially sworn in as the 31st Mayor of the Township of Irvington, Wednesday, July 1. The inauguration is scheduled to take place at noon in the Council Chamber of the Irvington Municipal Building. When Bost defeated four opponents earlier this year to be reelected to her second term.

The Mayor will repeat her oath of office and deliver her inaugural address at the ceremonial event, which includes the Council reorganization meeting, in addition to performances by local talent at Irvington High School at 6 p.m. Bost became the first mayor in 20 years to win re-election. She is also the first female mayor in the township and the first African-American mayor in Essex County.

Essex Valley Healthcare head steps down

EAST ORANGE—The head of Essex Valley Healthcare has resigned effective immediately. Mark Chastang cited "philosophical difference" for leaving the post he has held for the past two and a half years.

Organization chairman George Walhauser, Jr., who once praised Chastang for his performance, accepted the resignation "with regret." Chastang, Essex Valley Healthcare's first chief executive officer is credited with strengthening the staff dress code of East Orange General and increasing cash reserves from more than \$2 million dollars. He is the second CEO to resign from the position in four years.

Students perform better in standardized tests

NEWARK—Student performance on the 1998 Stanford 9 standardized test showed significant improvement over last year. The strongest gain was in Language Arts, where the number of students performing at or above grade level rose by four percent.

The Stanford 9 measures student proficiency in Language Arts, Mathematics and Reading. Students in grades 2 through 7 and grades 9 and 10 take the test, which contains both multiple choice and open-ended questions that emphasize critical thinking skills, knowledge and performance.

"These new scores are very encouraging," said Dr. Beverly Hall, District Superintendent of the Newark Public Schools. "The Stanford 9 is a much more rigorous and demanding achievement test than those previously administered in the district. The fact that our students continue to improve on this test demonstrates that our on-going emphasis on student achievement, staff development and parental involvement is a paying a positive impact on our children." Dr. Hall points to the district's Early Childhood Center as a catalyst for improvement in student performance.

Southern New Jersey city faces state takeover

CAMDEN—Because of its myriad problems, the state of New Jersey and Governor Christie Whitman are considering a virtual takeover of the City of Camden.

Currently, the city has a 14 percent unemployment rate, the lowest per-capita income in the state and a crime rate three times the state average. The school system, with a high school dropout rate of 70 percent has already been threatened with a takeover similar to the one in Newark.

A proposal inserted in the current state budget has offered a \$15 million bailout for the city.

Plainfield cops show and prove at games

PLAINFIELD—Three officers from the Plainfield Police Force represented the city at the recent World Police Games in Dallas, Texas loaded down with medals and awards.

Sergeant Michael Gilliam, Sergeant Wilfred Whitley and Officer Lonnie Jones won a total of eight medals in their respective fields of athletic expertise. The non-Olympic event drew over 3,600 members of law enforcement participating in over two dozen events.

Sergeant Gilliam received two gold medals in the Karate Black Belt competition. He is currently a three-time World Champion in this competition. "The exciting thing about these games is the spirit of camaraderie it fosters both in the department and at the games," he said.

Sergeant Whitley received Silver and Bronze medals in golfing, and was very impressed by the attendance at the event. "Sharing experiences with your peers in law enforcement from around the country can help you become more effective in your work," he said.



Three officers from the Plainfield Police Force came back from the World Police Games loaded down with medals. They are, from left, Sergeant Wilfred Whitley, Sergeant Michael Gilliam, and Officer Lonnie Jones.

The recipient of two Silver and two Bronze medals in Bowling and the Service Revolver category,

Officer Lonnie Jones looks forward to attending the event in the future and bringing home more

awards. "I am proud to represent the city of Plainfield and bring these medals home," he said.

Plainfield schools get grant for after-school programs

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Board of Education received a \$12.2 million grant from the federally-funded 21st Century Community Learning Centers to create after-school programs for approximately 300 students and their parents.

U.S. Congressman Bob Franks (R-District 7) recently presented the grant to the Plainfield Partnership for Learning a consortium of organizations including the Plainfield Board of Education along with city and county social, health and welfare services that will cooperate in creating the after-school programs.

The ceremonies were held at

the Washington Elementary School, one of the schools in the district where the learning centers will be opened in September. Learning centers will also be opened at the Stillman Elementary School and at the Hubbard and Maxson Middle Schools.

The funds will be used to establish after-school programs for children that will include tutoring programs; homework help; academic enrichment programs in science, math and strategy as well as art activities; drug prevention; sports; peer mediation; counseling; life skills classes and health and dental referrals.

The grant to the school dis-

trict is one of four given to communities in New Jersey. It is the second largest amount in the state after Newark. A total of \$40 million was awarded by President Bill Clinton to 98 communities in the country after receiving nearly 2,000 applications. The grants given range from \$47,000 to \$2.3 million a year for three years. Plainfield's grant is for \$413,000 a year for three years.

In addition to programs for children, the school district will initiate support groups for parents, classes to teach parenting skills, instruction on homework assistance, health and nutrition information sessions and literacy and counseling activities.

County jail system gets new director

ELIZABETH—James E. Coleman, an official with the City of Nashville, Tenn. With more than 25 years of corrections experience, has been named to the post of Union County's director of Correction Services.

Coleman will start as director next month. Named assistant director of the county's department of corrections in April of this year, Coleman is a former corrections officer and director of the Davidson County, Tennessee Sheriff's Department. From 1980 to 1983, Coleman worked for the Tennessee Corrections Institute, developing training programs for local and county-level corrections and law enforcement personnel and acting as a consultant in jail operations. He left the institute in 1990 to work with the National Institute of Corrections in Boulder, Co., where he coordinated management training programs for corrections department across the country.

"James Coleman brings a strong background in corrections, having worked as an officer and in the area of officer training on the local, county and national levels," said Union County Manager Michael J. Lapolla. "He continues this county's focus on training and professionalism."

Coleman said he plans to focus on overtime at the jail. "I want to ensure that he has the proper staff for each shift," he said. I also want to focus on training and to ensure that staff has the most up-to-date training possible."

Status of minorities to be studied

TRENTON—According to the 1990 census, New Jersey's unemployment rate for African-Americans and Latinos consistently exceeds twice that of whites. The mean household income for whites is nearly \$54,000, but for blacks it is closer to \$35,000 and for Latinos it is closer to \$36,000. Only five percent of the state's white population lives below the poverty line. By contrast 19 percent of blacks and 19 percent of Hispanics live below the poverty line.

To address these statistics, the Assembly Appropriations Committee recently approved legislation that would establish a two-year legislative commission to study social and economic status of minorities in New Jersey.

The measure (A-1237) is sponsored by Assembly Democratic Leader Joseph V. Doria, Jr. (D-Hudson) and Assembly Speaker Jack Collins (A-Salem).

"African Americans, Latinos, Asians, and Native Americans are routinely denied access and opportunity to jobs, schools, and housing," said Doria. "This, consequently, has made it very difficult for minorities to progress from a disadvantaged economic and social status and enter America's mainstream."

Doria's measure would establish a two-year legislative study commission—the Commission on the Status of Minorities—that

would be responsible for assessing the current status of social and economic opportunities available to ethnic and racial minorities. The 20-member commission would be made up of four legislators and 16 public members.

In the commission's first year, the members would be responsible for reviewing current literature and statistical data on ethnic and racial minorities of color, interviewing experts, historians, and conducting hearings and cataloging and inventorying existing public and private resources aimed at providing social and economic opportunities to the state's communities of color. In its second year, the commission would then create a comprehensive database using the compiled information.

The database would be made available to the public, to state and local agencies, and to non-governmental organizations, particularly those representing the state's African Americans, Asian, Latino and Native American communities. At the end of its two-year term, the commission would be responsible in issuing a report containing its findings and recommendations. "This commission will help bring to light many of the social and economic obstacles that continue to hinder our minority communities," said Doria. "His recommendations will certainly prove valuable in our efforts in finding a solution to these serious obstacles."

The state must continue to play a role in ensuring an equal footing for minorities in education and employment."

The same census report showed that more than 25 percent of the state's white population hold a bachelor's degree or better. But only 13.6 percent of blacks and 10 percent of Hispanics have such college degrees.

Linda McLeod is top teacher

NEWARK—Newark Public Schools District Superintendent Dr. Beverly Hall announced that the District Teacher of the Year is Ms. Linda McLeod, who teaches at Maple Avenue School.

As the District Teacher of the Year, Ms. McLeod represents the very best of the many skilled and dedicated professionals who each day inspire a love of learning in our students," said Dr. Hall.

Linda McLeod has taught at Maple Avenue School for her entire 28 year career. She presently teaches reading and language arts to seventh and eighth grade students and is also a member of the school's Core Team, a planning body comprised of teachers, parents and administrators.

As the winning nominee out of a pool of 29 in the district, Ms. McLeod will go on to compete for the position of County Teacher of the Year and, if successful, the State Teacher of the Year for 1998-99. All 28 of the district nominees will participate in the Governor's Teacher Recognition Program, which is intended to inspire good teachers to maintain a high quality of instruction.

East Orange football player charged in rape

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—A photograph taken by a bank's automated teller machine helped police track a suspect in the January kidnapping, rape and robbery of a 24-year-old woman.

Jewell D. Plummer, 22, of East Orange, was arrested recently after being identified as a suspect in the alleged attack. A camera recorded him using the victim's ATM card, police said.

Plummer, a former Southern

University football player, was booked into Parish Prison on charges of aggravated rape, second-degree kidnapping, armed robbery and unauthorized use of an access card. Bond was set at \$300,000.

After the suspect's picture was published in The Advocate of Baton Rouge, several people identified a suspect as Plummer, the warrant says.

THE 2ND ANNUAL GEORGE "GEE-GEE" BROWN



George "Gee-Gee" Brown

MEMORIAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT JULY 17 - JULY 19, 1998

Helping your Community Can Mean Helping Yourself



Jabbar Jones

Join Jabbar Jones & other celebrity athletes in the 2nd memorial tournament for the late George "Gee-Gee" Brown who was gunned down in 1988 by a stray bullet during a basketball game.

This is not only a tournament for adults, but children will be involved as well. Loads of prizes and CD's will be given away to the youth. Among the prizes will be two basketball camp scholarships to Rider University and Rutgers University.

The games will be held at Madison Avenue Playground located at Madison and W. 2nd St. in Plainfield (adjacent to McDonald's).

Game Time
Friday, July 17 at 5 p.m.
Saturday, July 18 at 12 p.m.
Sunday, July 19 at 12 p.m.

Vendors are welcome and for more information, contact: Jabbar Jones, Tournament Coordinator at 908-233-1446 or 908-233-0245.

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Here's to: our graduates

By Dr. Conrad Worrell

During the months of May and June, thousands of Africans in America participate in commencement exercises affirming their graduation from elementary, middle school, high school and college. Often I am required to speak at these commencement exercises and the following is generally what I share with the graduates, their families, families and friends:

Your life has just begun today brothers and sisters. This is probably one of the most important days in your life as you make this transition, this rights of passage in moving toward another stage in your development as young Africans in America.

I'd like to congratulate you teachers, parents, guardians, and extended family members who are here today and who have supported you in reaching this critical stage of your life at this critical hour in history.

I want to have a brief but serious talk with you today brothers and sisters. It is being predicted that by the year 2000, and beyond, 70 percent of African men in America between the ages of 16 and 24 will either be in jail, addicted to drugs or alcoholism. Increasingly, this same trend is occurring with African females in America. One of the purposes of our educational pursuits is to turn this devastating trend around.

What does all this mean today as you graduate from this educational institution that professes to be dedicated to the academic and cultural development of young people like yourselves? As young Black people or Africans in America, about to enter a new stage in life, let me share with you that being Black and African really means:

First, it is color—your African ancestry.

Secondly, it is culture. Practicing a lifestyle which recognizes the importance of our African and African-American heritage and traditions that will facilitate the present and future development of our people.

Thirdly, it is consciousness. We should always be conscious of our strength, beauty, and potential as African people. In this connection, we should always interpret all situations from the standpoint of the greatest good for the greatest number of Africans in the world. This is called the African principle.

Finally and fourthly, Black, or being African, means commitment. It means a willingness to work tirelessly in the interest of African people and all oppressed humanity. So it is today that I am challenging you to continue on the path of becoming independent African people who are not dependent on others outside of our communities for the things we can do for ourselves.

I am challenging you as you make this rites of passage to prepare yourselves to become committed to the struggle for the just and common cause for the liberation and redemption of African people worldwide.

It is this dedication to the common cause goes beyond these sources of one generation. It means we must always learn from previous generations and the wisdom of our ancestors as a way of seeking and struggling for a better way of life for African people based on goals and objectives of our own best interests.

In other words, we must stop killing each other over material items and drugs that other people manufacture and bring into our communities. We must stop the killings!

We must seek to prepare the generations to come to develop the skills and resources for making our ultimate freedom and liberation a



Some of the members of the graduating Class of 1998 at Plainfield High School were elated, some were relieved, and some were overwhelmed.

reality. As Malcolm X always said, "education is the passport to freedom."

As the renowned African American educator, psychologist and historian Dr. Asa Hilliard writes SBA: The Re-awakening of the African Mind "We Africans have not viewed our problem holistically. After years of living under conditions of extreme oppression, we have settled for the limited definitions of our problem."

Dr. Hilliard explains that a "classic example may be taken from the period of the Civil Rights Movement. The evil and gross injustice of slavery and segregation vio-

lated the civil rights of African people and had to be addressed. However, the necessary task of fighting for civil rights was insufficient to allow for the healing of a people. Our healing requires a greater conceptual frame than that provided by civil rights."

Remember, parents, teachers, and students—as our esteemed elder Dr. John Henrik Clarke has repeatedly warned that powerful people never teach powerless people how to take power from them.

Education is one of the most sensitive areas in the life of a people. Its role is to be honest and true and to tell people where they have

been and what they are. Most importantly, Dr. Clarke points out, the role of education and history is to tell a people where they still must go. This is a great day for you who have made this step in your rights of passage and transition. We congratulate you and in the name of all our ancestors and send you forward to the next stage of your development in the cycle of life.

A Luta Continua—the struggle continues and we will conquer without a doubt. Hopes!

Dr. Conrad Worrell is the National Chairman of the National Black Union Front.

Safety for kids at play falls short

By Will Lester
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—Charles Richey watched as a slide at a school playground collapsed when his nine-year-old daughter Jill swung on one of its support beams. The slide fell on her chest, and she died 90 minutes later.

Soon after Jill's death five years ago, the Pittsburgh businessman decided the best way to honor her memory was to crusade for safe playgrounds. Now Pittsburgh is in the second year of a five-year program to bring every one of its 169 playgrounds to current safety standards.

"I cannot stop the slide from falling on my daughter," Richey said in a telephone interview Thursday. "But I can stop the next one."

Pittsburgh's aggressive approach, spurred by Richey's family tragedy, is more the exception than the rule.

A study released recently by consumer groups indicates that most communities have plenty of room for improvement when it comes to playground safety. It did not rank the cities.

The study, released by the Consumer Federation of America and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group, cited evidence of limited progress in recent years.

"We've seen some slight improvement," Ed Mierzwinski of the U.S. Public Interest Research Group said at a news conference. "But we are finding too many playgrounds that are unsafe."

"Kids are going to scrape their knees, try risk-taking behavior," said Mary Ellen Fife, product safety director of the Consumer Federation of America. "This isn't like making padded rooms. We're focusing on injuries that could cause serious injuries or deaths."

The study found that nine of 10 playgrounds surveyed had inadequate protective surfacing. This is a vital area because three out of four playground injuries are caused by falls, the study said.

More than half the playgrounds surveyed had hazards with swing spacing, two-thirds had climbing equipment higher than the recommended six feet and a third had sliding boards higher than that. Four out of 10 playgrounds had devices that risked trapping a child's head, dangerous playground equipment and protrusions or gaps that could lead to strangulation, the groups said.

For the first time, the groups looked at the hazards of paint on playground equipment and found that almost half of the playgrounds had paint chipping or chipping paint. More analysis was needed to determine how much of it was dangerous lead-based paint.

Each year, about 150,000 children sustain playground injuries that require trips to hospitals. About 15 children die.

The Census Bureau every two years since 1992, found that the number of playgrounds without adequate protective surfacing was about the same this year as in 1996. It noted that more playgrounds had a mix of hard and soft surfaces, indicating that some efforts, though inadequate, are being made.

"People are starting to become aware that children are dying on our playgrounds," said Richey, who has two other children. "I'd like to think that when I see a daughter in heaven, she'll know that I tried my best to stop the next slide from falling."

Black school doesn't excel at learning

Respondents' outlook runs contrary to national trends

TRENTON—A new survey sponsored by the State Chamber, Rutgers Business School and Arthur Andersen reveals that recent college graduates and graduating seniors think they have received all the formal schooling they need for lifetime employment and that their career path will remain relatively constant. This is contrary to national trends that predict lifelong learning and multiple career changes are now a necessity, and indicates that new graduates may have trouble navigating the modern workplace. The survey also indicates that when weighing a job offer, Gen Xers feel the work environment was almost twice as important as fringe benefits.

School's out for life

Forty-two percent of respondents felt they would not return to full-time student status during the course of their careers, and 43 percent felt they would not go back to school as a part-time student. Only two percent of respondents

saw themselves as being part-time students for more than 10 years—something that the changing workplace will demand. Twenty-three percent thought they would spend one or two years and 23 percent forecast three or four more years as a full-time student, while 36 percent thought they might spend between one and four years on a part-time basis.

"As it is, people will always be going back for a graduate degree or to finish their undergraduate work," said P. George Benson, former dean of Rutgers Business School. "What's surprising is that less than one percent are expecting that they will be part-time students for life. This flies in the face of current thinking regarding the continuing role that education will play for workers in tomorrow's learning organizations," Alvin Toner, author of Future Shock, said the "illiterate of the year 2000 will not be the individual who cannot read and write, hence most of the offerings are blockbuster start vehicles."

Video stores offer only a slightly better alternative, but involve a few annoyances, such as having to leave home to get the movie. The theory behind Interlainer is to transform the personal computer, and eventually the

television set, into a one-stop entertainment bazaar. With the click of a mouse, you can watch "In and Out," you can listen to a new jazz release or assemble your own Luther Vandross greatest hits record, download the music and send it to a recordable CD machine.

The technology also allows for true interactive viewing. While checking out a new Will Smith music video, viewers can click on a preview of Smith's "Men in Black" and, if they want, order the movie. The film itself remains on Interlainer's main computer, so the film can be paused, rewound, fast-forwarded—or started 12 hours later. If Smith's Ray-Bans look especially good, you might even order a pair for yourself without leaving your home.

Consumers can use Interlainer on a PC or on a TV equipped with a set-top box or a set-top personal computer.

long learning and movement within and among organizations. This is causing a big problem for New Jersey businesses, continued Verplank. "There are plenty of jobs in the state that need to be filled, but because they require new and specialized sets of skills they are going unfilled. Businesses have to import talent from abroad because they can't find skilled workers domestically."

The single employer

When asked about the chances that they would spend their entire career with one employer, 24 percent were fairly certain this would be the case. Only 28 percent saw little or no chance of finishing their career in the same place they started.

Eighty-four percent of Gen Xers, regardless of age, expect 10 or more years with one employer. The average expectation is 18.2 years, and the median is 15 years. "Twenty or 30

years ago these expectations would have been met," continued Verplank. Today it is mythology. Technology and competition changed that a decade ago."

Work environment, not benefits, is paramount

Regardless of how long they expect to work for a company, Gen Xers are clear about what would make them want to work for that company. The survey asked them to identify three qualities other than salary and an appropriate match to their skills that a job or workplace would need to have to make them want to accept a job offer. Most cited was work environment (26 percent). "Challenging job" and "Location" were each cited by 21 percent of the respondents. Benefits were important to only 14 percent of the respondents and "chance for advancement" and "quality company," registered in the single digits at eight percent and five percent respectively.

New technology could change how you watch movies at home

By John Horn
AP Entertainment Writer

SANTA MONICA, Calif.—A new entertainment-on-demand system aimed at delivering movies, music and more into the home made its debut in its first meaningful consumer test, with trial runs set for Phoenix and Philadelphia in June. Entertainment on demand has never become a practical reality, but several leading companies, including Intel, Sony, US West and Comcast, are betting this new in-home system, called Interlainer, has a chance of succeeding.

Interlainer is one of several companies seeking to exploit new broadband technology, which can bring data into the home at speeds 20 to 100 times faster than the fastest computer modems currently available. Cable and telephone companies are now speeding

millions installing these high-speed lines. One estimate by the research firm, The Forrester Report, projects that nearly one-quarter of all U.S. homes will have such high-speed lines by 2005. Interlainer says it could have as many as 20,000 users by the end of this year.

Today's Pay-Per-View movie channels offer limited titles at specific times. If you want to watch "In and Out," you have to be in front of your television at exactly the right time. If your taste runs toward art films, you rarely get a chance to order the movie you want, since most of the offerings are blockbuster start vehicles.

Video stores offer only a slightly better alternative, but involve a few annoyances, such as having to leave home to get the movie. The theory behind Interlainer is to transform the personal computer, and eventually the

television set, into a one-stop entertainment bazaar. With the click of a mouse, you can watch "In and Out," you can listen to a new jazz release or assemble your own Luther Vandross greatest hits record, download the music and send it to a recordable CD machine.

The technology also allows for true interactive viewing. While checking out a new Will Smith music video, viewers can click on a preview of Smith's "Men in Black" and, if they want, order the movie. The film itself remains on Interlainer's main computer, so the film can be paused, rewound, fast-forwarded—or started 12 hours later. If Smith's Ray-Bans look especially good, you might even order a pair for yourself without leaving your home.

Consumers can use Interlainer on a PC or on a TV equipped with a set-top box or a set-top personal computer.

Unlike current video on a PC, Interlainer's image is full-screen, with none of the typical Internet chopiness. The system's "smart agent" will also record your votes on whatever you watch and try to steer you to programming that might match your tastes.

The demographic profile we're going after is someone who's pretty upscale—who wouldn't mind paying \$60 a month for a high-speed Internet connection," says Jonathan Taplin, Interlainer's co-chairman and a former movie producer.

In the Philadelphia and Phoenix trials, Interlainer customers will have a choice of only about 200 movies, far from the selection available at a local Blockbuster. About 10 percent of the titles, limited by computer storage space, will be updated every week, but Taplin says he hopes to have as many as 500 movies soon.



Soon you will be able to get movies like "Amistad" whenever you want through the services of Interlainer.

Health Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

NEW BRUNSWICK—Breastfeeding Support Group meets twice a month starting at 12:15 p.m. at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. For more information, call 732-937-8105.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Living with Cancer Support Group meets three Wednesdays a month at 7 p.m. at the Cancer Institute of New Jersey. For more information, call 732-235-7557.

NEW BRUNSWICK—New Horizons Support Group meets twice a month starting at 7:30 p.m. at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Board Room. For further information, call 732-937-8820.

FRIDAY, JULY 3

NEW BRUNSWICK—Hepatitis "C" Support Group meets first Friday of each month 7:30 p.m. in the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital Board Room. For further information, call 732-937-8820.

THURSDAY, JULY 9

JERSEY CITY—New Jersey City University will offer four seminars for individuals seeking certification as alcoholism and/or drug abuse counselors in New Jersey. For more information, call the Saturday Seminar Office at 201-200-3088.

FRIDAY, JULY 10

WESTFIELD—The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Union County will hold a workshop on Post Mediation Recovery, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for further information and registration, 908-233-8810.

FRIDAY, JULY 24

WESTFIELD—The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Union County will hold a workshop on Concomitant Gambling, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call for further information and registration, 908-233-8810.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4

WESTFIELD—The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Union County will hold a three day workshop on Assessment. Call for further information and registration, 908-233-8810.

'Tips' on raising infants right

TIPS FOR TEACHING Infants & Toddlers



The expertise of two of Children's Specialized Hospital's early childhood development specialists is now available in paperback for professionals and parents:

Ellen D'Amato, Ph.D., of Ridgewood, an educational psychologist, and Dorothy Benson, M.A., of South Amboy, a teacher in CSH's Early Intervention Program along with contributions from other professionals have written *Tips for Teaching Infants and Toddlers*.

The idea for this book came to these professionals from their many years of working with infants and toddlers with special needs. The book has become a guide for new EIP teachers and therapists who are looking to incorporate new activities into their lessons. The activities can also be easily performed by parents and childcare providers looking to enhance their children's development.

Tips for Teaching Infants and Toddlers is available by calling 1-800-4-epsch and may soon be available through Barnes and Noble bookstores.



Outstanding services for heart patients

A grand celebration was a part of the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of Muhlenberg Regional Hospital's new cardiac continous care unit. This state of the art facility includes the newest equipment for cardiac emergencies, diagnosis, inpatient care and rehabilitation. On hand for the celebration are, from left, John Kopteloff, Executive Vice President, Solaris Health System; Ann Logan, R.N., Assistant Vice President; Amy Gibson, R.N., Nurse Manager; Mary Anne Keyes, R.N.; Vice President, Robert Schlosser, Chairman, Muhlenberg Board of Governors and Howard Semer, M.D., Chief of Cardiology.

Rogers-Hunter leads state student nurses



BLOOMFIELD—Bloomfield College student Norma Rogers-Hunter of Plainfield, left, conducted her first meeting as president of New Jersey Nursing Students, Inc. (NJNS) recently on campus. Joining her on the board was Sheila Chelink of West

Orange, at right, a senior at Bloomfield College, who was recently elected community health director for the organization. NJNS is an affiliate of the National Student Nurses' Association with more than 1,500 members throughout the state.

Legislators defend organ donor system

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senators Robert G. Torricelli (D-NJ) and Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) joined transplant doctors from across the nation at a Capitol Hill press conference recently to defend proposed changes to the national organ donation system.

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Donna Shalala has proposed changing the way organs are made available to recipients. Currently, organs are offered first to the state where become available, then to the region, and then nationally. Under the proposed rules, potential would be prioritized nationally, and organs would be made available to the matching recipient closest to the top of the list.

"A national organ donation system will force the smaller transplant centers that serve the uninsured and underinsured to close as the vast majority of organs go to the handful of the nation's transplant centers with the longest waiting lists," said Torricelli.

"We should take a reasonable pause before making such a radical change in the way organ donations are allocated," said Sen. Lautenberg. "I fear that New Jersey patients will be hit with long waiting periods without really improving the national system. What we really need to do is promote more organ donation throughout the country."

Torricelli's legislation, which was introduced recently, would delay the implementation of the proposed rule by one year and require a study to gauge the impact on community-based programs and low-income patients.

Facts on Organ Donation

American lives have been saved by organ transplants in the past 15 years. 20,000 were performed just last year.

60,000 people are currently awaiting a donor organ. 1,500 of them live in New Jersey.

Every 16 minutes a new name is added to the national list. Every day, 11 people on the national waiting list die (more than 4,000 a year) waiting for an organ.

New Jersey's system of certificate of need and charity care ensures that the most critical patients get organs first, regardless of income. The New Jersey transplant rate over 5 years in the minority communities is 30 percent, versus 19 percent nationally.

In 1997, 376 people received organs donated by 125 New Jersey residents, the most donations since the New Jersey Sharing Network was created in 1987.

In response to overwhelming public concern over regulations published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that remove geography as a consideration for donor organ allocation, Senator Torricelli's legislation that will delay the implementation of the regulations to allow time for additional study.

The bill also requires HHS to conduct a study of proposed regulations before implementation in consultation with the medical community, including those serving low-income patients.

AEDs and early defibrillation save human lives

NORTH BRUNSWICK—In the past few months numerous stories have been published in New Jersey newspapers about automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and the importance of early defibrillation. The Phillipsburg school district is considering the purchase of AEDs for its public safety departments to add to the three AEDs currently in the rescue squad ambulance and police cars. Ham's in Atlantic City installed defibrillators and trained their security staff to operate the AEDs. There have been many stories about local townships, police departments and emergency rescue squads in the process of acquiring AEDs.

AEDs are a "hot topic" in New Jersey and around the country, and rightly so. The American Heart Association estimates that 24,000 or more unnecessary deaths could be prevented each year if automated external defibrillators (AEDs) were more widely available to "traditional first responders" (emergency medical service and fire rescue personnel) and "targeted first responders" (e.g., police, security guards, foreman, flight attendants, life-guard).

Sudden cardiac arrest is an abrupt

loss of effective pulse and blood pressure. Most episodes of sudden cardiac arrest are due to abnormal heart rhythms called arrhythmias. Victims of sudden cardiac arrest collapse and quickly lose consciousness, often without warning. Unless a normal heart rhythm is restored, death follows within a matter of minutes. The key to survival is timely initiation of a series of events, referred to as the "Chain of Survival." The four links in the "Chain of Survival" are: 1) Early Access ("Call 911"); 2) Early CPR; 3) Early defibrillation; and 4) Early Advanced Care.

AED availability and early defibrillation is perhaps the most critical link in the chain, and weakness in any link lessens the chance of survival and condemns the efforts of an emergency medical system to poor results. After as little as 10 minutes, very few resuscitation attempts are successful.

"The American Heart Association supports the strategic placement of AEDs in airports, train and bus terminals, stadiums, casinos, concert halls, arenas, large office complexes, and other sites where large numbers of people gather; and allow their use with proper training and medical supervision," said Dr. Hummel. "Early access to defibrillation will give us the chance to save more New Jersey lives."

Possible link to high blood pressure in blacks

By David Koenig
Associated Press Writer

DALLAS (AP)—Healthy blacks don't seem to be as strongly as whites to a chemical that helps the body handle stress, according to a study that could help explain why blacks are more likely to have high blood pressure.

Many doctors have long blamed poor diet and lifestyle choices for the prevalence of high blood pressure. But the study, published Thursday in *Hypertension*, a journal of the American Heart Association, offers a physiological possibility.

"Hypertension is probably caused by several factors," said Dr. Julio A. Panza, lead researcher. "Other studies have reported that blacks have increased sensitivity to salt."

The researchers at the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute said blacks aren't as strongly affected

as whites by the chemical nitric oxide, which helps blood vessels relax and carry more blood to muscles during mental stress.

Panza said more research is needed into the role of nitric oxide. His study used only 12 blacks and 14 whites. But he is optimistic it will lead to earlier identification of people likely to develop high blood pressure and maybe the development of drugs to treat it.

High blood pressure is a leading risk factor for heart disease, heart attacks, stroke and diabetes. Yet doctors are able to pinpoint the cause of high blood pressure in only about one in 10 patients.

A doctor with the American Heart Association said the study is significant because none of the test subjects had high blood pressure.

That hints strongly at some physiological difference between blacks and

whites, said Dr. Roxanne Rodney, associate director of nuclear cardiology at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center and an associate professor at Columbia University in New York.

"Most of the previous work has been done with medicines, diet and exercise," Ms. Rodney said. "These factors all have an impact, but we need to get beyond that and see if there are actual cellular differences."

Not only are blacks about 40 percent more likely than whites to have high blood pressure, they also tend to develop it earlier and more severely.

"This study is certainly in line with the theory that something is going on in blacks that leads to tighter blood vessels," said University of Maryland researcher Dr. Elijah Saunders. He also believes environmental factors, including stress from poverty, might explain the prevalence of high blood pressure in blacks.

Watch children for signs of heart stroke

By Dr. Ellen Putter
New York University School of Medicine

It's summer and the air is filled with the joyous sounds of children at play. From morning until night, children are chasing balls, capturing flies and playing tag. But this picture can turn grim if children play so hard and so long that they experience a condition called heat stroke.

Overheating occurs when people overexert themselves in very hot weather. Heat stroke takes place when the body's internal temperature rises high enough to damage vital organs. Although this is rare, heat stroke can cause imbalances in the body's electrolytes (or natural salts), shut down the kidneys, and cause shock or even death. Among those at greatest risk for heat stroke are the elderly, who are sensitive to heat and poor air quality, and children, who may not pay attention to signs that they are becoming overheated. Signs of extreme overheating include thirst, fatigue, flushed skin and feelings of dizziness.

At special risk are infants, toddlers and children with chronic illnesses, such as heart and lung problems or diabetes.

Infants and toddlers are especially sensitive to the sun because the surface area of their heads is large, relative to the rest of their bodies. Because of their greater surface area, their heads—if exposed to the sun—can absorb harmful amounts of heat. Therefore, infants and toddlers should always wear hats when they go outside in hot, sunny weather. Very young children are also at risk for heat stroke because they may not be able to verbalize their need for

water. Remember to provide them with plenty of liquid.

The good news is that heat stroke is almost entirely preventable.

To protect your children this summer, follow these simple common-sense precautions:

• Never leave children locked inside an unattended car, even for a few minutes. Although this can be dangerous any time, it can quickly turn deadly when the weather is hot. Almost every summer, there are new reports of children dying of heat or suffocation after being locked inside a car and forgotten.

Temperatures inside a car can reach as high as 150 degrees F in 10 minutes.

• Shake your children get plenty of fluids. Send them to camp with a water bottle. Or, if they're playing in the back yard, call frequent breaks for drinks. Serve children sports drinks to replace electrolytes that may be lost due to excessive sweating, or serve food with some added salt, which can also replace electrolytes lost through sweat.

• Give children opportunities to cool off in water. Set up sprinklers, swim swimming pools or lakes, set up

wading pools, or just use the shower. Immersing oneself in cold—but not icy—water is a good way to cool the body down.

• Have children play in shady areas, and make sure they take time out to rest.

• In times of extreme heat, allow children to cool off in air conditioning. If your home is not air-conditioned, use fans to circulate the air or visit movie theaters, restaurants or stores that are air-conditioned.

• Have children dress in light-colored clothes, which absorb less heat than dark colors. Avoid clothes made of synthetic fibers. Sweating is the body's natural way of cooling down. Clothing made of natural fibers allows the body to cool properly.

• If a child shows signs of overheating, quickly take steps to cool him down. Any person who loses consciousness due to heat stroke should be taken immediately to the emergency room.

Dr. Ellen Putter is assistant clinical instructor of pediatrics at New York University School of Medicine in New York City.

EDWARD A. ALDER, MD, MPH. Board Certified in Internal Medicine

Dr. Alder is back in Plainfield! He has joined Dr. Lamar Bomar and is now seeing patients at their office located at: 419 Spooner Avenue Plainfield, NJ 07060

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Calendar

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1

PLAINFIELD—An edifying and rigorous Bible study will be held every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at First Park Baptist Church. 908-756-5322

FRIDAY, JULY 3

PLAINFIELD—A vibrant and elevating prayer meeting will be held each Friday at First Park Baptist Church at 7 p.m. 908-756-5322

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

WASHINGTON, DC—A National Black Religious Summit is sponsored by the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice will be held at the Howard Divinity School. 202-628-7700

SUNDAY, JULY 11

BROOKLYN—Terri McFaddin, an ordained minister and author of "God Made Beauty/Fall" will speak 1:30 p.m. at the Brooklyn Marriott. Rev. McFaddin

SUNDAY, JULY 12

BROOKLYN—Yvonne Vincent will give the keynote address at 1:30 at the 1998 National Black Religious Summit. For more information contact Yvonne Vincent at 718-734-2781

TUESDAY, JULY 14

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Off-Broadway play entitled, "Another Chance," a musical drama, written by Melissa Moore and directed by Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. 972-822-1344

NEWARK—A Prayer Quake is about to happen. St. John's A.M.E. Church located at 588 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. 972-822-1344

Shiloh Baptist Church holds community picnic and block party

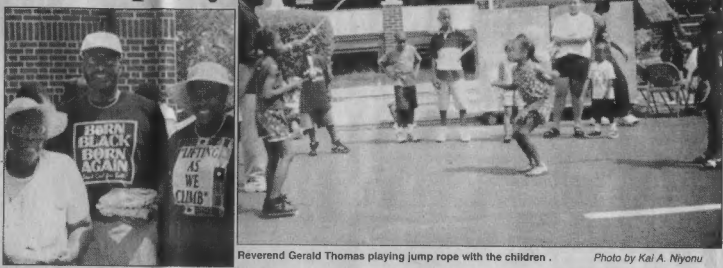
PLAINFIELD—Shiloh Baptist Church held its 5th annual community picnic and block party on June 27, 1998.

Free food, clothes for the needy and live entertainment was provided on this beautiful day. The community picnic was attended by a few hundred people.

Robin Miller, from Piscataway is a 15-year member of Shiloh Baptist Church.

"Before I became a member I didn't have any Christian friends and since I've become a member, the fellowship that we have and the friends that I've met and getting involved in the community have made a big difference in my life, helping others."

Enjoying the fun and food are, from left, Julia Fagg, Rev. Gerald Thomas and Gayle Lewis.



Reverend Gerald Thomas playing jump rope with the children.

Photo by Kai A. Niyono

Developing consciousness

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

"What is consciousness? Consciousness is awareness. What is awareness? Awareness is the ability to see accurately what is. Being able to see accurately means that one must be properly oriented in space, time and person, which means that the prerequisite for consciousness is to have some accurate image of one's self and the world in which one finds himself."

—Na'im Akbar
Brainwashing: conversion of an individual from an established orientation (usually political) to another. The word derives from two Chinese words meaning "to wash the brain" and "the use of physical or psychological force."

—Dictionary of Psychology
Na'im Akbar in his enlightening book *Visions for Black Men* touches on the importance of transformation, the change and evolution from the immature to the mature, from the boy slave to the free African. He astutely noted to be a fully functioning mature man one must be able to see accurately, be properly oriented in space, time and person having an accurate image of one's self and his or her place in the world.

The key to our health, sanity, regeneration and transformation as a people is to become aware, or conscious, of who we are, properly reoriented to space, time and person and conceive an accurate image of ourselves, our situation and our world. How do we do that?

By accessing the powers, gifts and talents we already possess, developing and strengthening ourselves to resist the brainwashing this society pumps at us continually and by actualizing our full potential to make a positive difference in the world! We must realize and grasp the great truth, life is lived from the inside out.

Change begins on the inside, in our minds and hearts and then manifests itself outwardly. We have the power to think anything and anyway we choose. Energy follows thought. Thinking triggers our emotions and the creative energy necessary to envision, move, initiate, galvanize support and make things happen. It all starts with thought and imagination. You have the power of imagination, the ability to create images, scenarios and results in your mind's eye. Everything we see in the universe is the result of the Creator's imagination and power to manifest what was created in mind. Our imagination facilitates the creation of our self-image and self-concept which are rooted in how we perceive ourselves, our self-esteem, our proper orientation and sense of place and purpose in the world.

We have been methodically brainwashed and converted from Yoruba, Ife, Bambara, Fan, Hausa etc. into Segun, oases, mummies and jiggaboos. Our degradation was devastating in its totality. Our brainwashing has been political, cultural and psycho-spiritual. Our orientation was changed from an intuitive affinity, inclusiveness and harmony with the Creator, nature and ourselves to one of alienation, marginalization and self-harm in a geo-political environment that still remains antagonistic towards us. We have been misdirected through ruthless physical abuse, mass education and external stimuli that present images antithetical to what the standards of beauty, power and success. We are so thrown off by this brainwashing and mendacious process, that we debate and kill ourselves in greater numbers than our enemies ever did!

Is there a solution? Yes. It is to regenerate an accurate knowledge of self, a healthy and wholesome self-esteem, self-image and self-concept. From these an accurate orientation and sense of purpose will evolve. Then our goals, aspirations and ambitions will be a positive reflection of who we define ourselves to be. Our actions will be congruent with our self-image and our vision of what is possible and ideal for ourselves. We will not demean or compromise ourselves, we will honor the Creator and our ancestors by honoring ourselves, respecting life, loving and respecting one another. We will cease engaging in the insanity of attempting to be something or someone we are not, nor can we comfortably ever be, other than our truest, noblest selves. No one can do this for us. We must do it for ourselves. We must begin the ongoing process of developing an accurate consciousness and empowering ourselves. Empowerment means accessing and properly, or righteously using our innate powers and gifts to formulate and accomplish our goals despite resistance and opposition. Ordo...

By Kai A. Niyono
John T. Barnett was in a car accident recently which made him reflect on his life. "Life is short and could be taken at any given time. I really appreciate life now. I spend more time with my daughter now. I really appreciate being here with my daughter and I thank God for being able to be here for her."

John, who was wearing a seatbelt when he was hit in the rear wheel partially through the windshield and sustained facial lacerations and neck and back injuries.

Car accident changes John Barnett's life

By Kai A. Niyono

John T. Barnett was in a car accident recently which made him reflect on his life. "Life is short and could be taken at any given time. I really appreciate life now. I spend more time with my daughter now. I really appreciate being here with my daughter and I thank God for being able to be here for her."

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John T. Barnett and daughter, Jade.

Southern Baptists have sexist attitude

by John Shelby Spang

The story had a strange sound about it. That very strangeness caused it to make the front pages of newspapers across the land and to find a spot on major radio and television news programs. The headlines screamed the eccentric and regressive message that "Women are doing to the authority of their husbands, that the man by divine right was to be the head of the family." As a Christian, I find the identification of this position with God's will to be deeply offensive.

The defenders of this new dogma adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Salt Lake City, Nevada, quote the sacred scriptures to justify their action. These scriptures, they proclaim, are God's literal words and they cannot, therefore, be questioned. All they are doing, they have said, is to reiterate God's truth as written in Ephesians which is the primary text on which this Baptist protocol is based. It is an interesting argument.

There is no doubt that the Bible, written between 1100 B.C. (or B.C.E.) and 150 A.D. (or C.E.) reflects the patriarchal bias of that ancient era. Included in Genesis is the story of the creation of the world in which man was made in God's image, but formed from the rib of the man. Her role was not that of an equal partner, but of a male helper. In the book of Exodus the woman was regarded as the property of the man. The final one of the Ten Commandments enjoined the faithful not to covet your neighbor's house, nor his wife...nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is your neighbor's. The neighbor was clearly a man. The wife was the neighbor's

property, valued somewhere beneath his house but above his office. Because wives were property, in the biblical drama, a man could have as many as he could afford. Solomon, the wealthiest of all the kings of the Hebrew nation, was said to have had a thousand wives. One wonders how they interpreted the prohibition against adultery when one man possessed a thousand women.

Throughout Christian history every social and scientific breakthrough has been resisted by those who wanted to quote the Bible to defend their threatened way of life. In the year 1215 the Bible was quoted to oppose the Magna Carta and to favor divine right of kings.

In the 17th century the Bible was quoted to condemn Galileo and favor of the earth being the center of the universe around which the sun revolved. In the 18th century the words of Paul were quoted to justify slavery. Later, biblical texts were cited to keep both segregation and apartheid functioning.

In the 19th century the Bible was quoted to condemn Darwin. In the 20th century the Bible was quoted to oppose the emancipation of women, their right to vote, to own property in their own name, to work outside the home, to plan their families, to leave an abusive husband, and even to get a safe abortion when medically required.

It was a strange use for the Bible and history judges that the Bible was wrong in each of these conflicts. That is not a very impressive record. To some of us, these bits of Christian history are a source of great embarrassment.

Now our brothers and sisters of the Southern Baptist Convention have decided that the only way they know to address the breakdown of

the family is to call on the woman to be submissive to her husband. That is God's way, they tell us. The price of saving the family, they believe, is to return to an era and a mentality that no longer exist. Is that a possibility for our world? Will modern men and women, for example, consider renouncing birth control and family planning? Will any of us vote to return to a world where women are not educated, where most careers are once again closed to them? Will we try to shrink the time span that now separates puberty from marriage since that gap has created the sexual revolution? Do we want to return to the era of rigid chaperones and arranged marriages? Is that what the Baptists desire? Who will listen to that message?

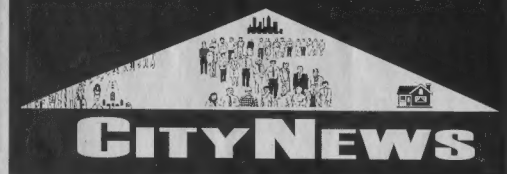
But I, as one Christian, am not willing to draw that conclusion. I believe that the reality of God can be separated from the theistic definitions of a controlling father figure that so dominated the Christianity of yesterday.

I believe that the divinity of Christ is actually found in the fullness of his humanity. I believe that the "Word of God" breaks forth from the words of scripture whenever it calls us to live fully, joyfully, wastefully and to be that of each of us can be.

I believe that the call to journey into the mystery of God is also a call to walk beyond every stereotype and every prejudice into a fullness of a new being that reveals the fullness of God.

I believe that when patriarchal definitions of religion die, the opportunity to grow into a new spiritual maturity is born. In these symbols I see hope for a Reformed Christianity that will live in a new millennium. I believe it can.

Uniting & Building Community Now!



We realize that our future lies chiefly in our own hands. We know that neither institution nor friends can make a race stand unless it has strength in its own foundation; that races like individuals must stand or fall by their own merit; that to fully succeed must practice the virtues of self-reliance, self-respect, industry, perseverance, and economy.

— Paul Robeson

Provident Savings deposits Franklin-St. John's Credit Union

NEWARK—Provident Savings Bank, in a continued display of its commitment to the communities that it serves, recently became a non-member depositor of Franklin-St. John's Credit Union, located in Newark. Franklin-St. John's Credit Union is a church-based organization with state charter to operate as a Community Development Credit Union (CDCU).

The aim of this joint venture between Provident and Franklin-St. John's is to provide basic financial services and personal loans to its members of the credit union, as well as financial services to the qualifying families within the Franklin-St. John's community. Provident's deposit will assist with the cash flow necessary to allow the credit union to serve the needs of its members and to provide much needed funds (working capital) to insure the success of this endeavor.



Individuals who helped make the Franklin-St. John's Credit Union a reality include, bottom row from left: George Rupp, Brenda Cox, Beverly Reese, Jean Murray, Rev. Ruth Higgins, Rev. Dr. Lloyd Terrell. Top row from left: Paquita Henderson, Edna James, Ethel Bivins, Carol Wilson and Aaron Johnson.

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Billboard

THURSDAY, JULY 2

NEW ORLEANS — Essence will hold its fourth annual Essence Music Festival on July 5. Showcases will feature Maxwell, Erykah Badu, Anita Baker, Stevie Wonder and more. For more information, call 1-800-488-5252.

NEWARK — The Newark Public Library is featuring the exhibit "Over There, 1917-1918" at its main library. The exhibition, which marks the 80th anniversary of the end of the war, will be on view through August 31. For more info, call 973-7798.

MONTCLAIR — Triplets — The Diva Musical! featuring Ruth Brown, Carol Woods and Angela Robinson, presented at Montclair State University's Memorial Auditorium. The show will run through July 12. For more information, call 973-655-112.

MONDAY, JULY 8

WATCHUNG — The Watchung Arts Center will offer sessions of drama and acting sessions for children. The first session, improvisation class, will run from through July 10. For more information and session cost, call 908-753-0190.

TUESDAY, JULY 9

EAST ORANGE — "Jazz at the Plaza" features The New Jersey All Stars featuring Alia Ture and the Indigo Blue Swing Quartet at City Hall Plaza at 6:30 p.m. The rain site will be East Orange High School. For more info, call 973-268-5440.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

NEW YORK — "A Midsummer Night's Dream" presents Rochelle Plummer and Loretta Holloway performing at Lincoln Center. For more info, call 212-875-5386.

HOBOKEN — "The Little Mermaid" will be shown at the Erie-Lackawanna Theater. The movie begins at 9:00 p.m. For more info, call 201-420-2207.

THURSDAY, JULY 11

NEW BRUNSWICK — A benefit for independent filmmaker Marilyn Herold's work in-progress "A Little South Up North" a documentary on food. The event will be held at Makeda Ethiopian Restaurant from 6:30-9:00 p.m. For more info, call 732-324-2181.

Shirley Marshall to shine at NJPAC

NEWARK — Vocalist Shirley Marshall grew up in Newark's South Ward. Throughout her career, she has performed in the New Jersey and New York area. Her talents have also taken her across the country and as far as Canada, the Caribbean and Europe.

Locally, Shirley has performed at the Newark Jazz Festival, the PSEAC Summer Music Series, B.Smith's, the City News 100 Most Influential Awards gala, and at various functions for the City of Newark.

For the past seven years, Marshall has performed with Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Inductees, The Shirelles. She has appeared with The Temptations, The Four Tops, The Manhattan, Smoke Robinson, Phoebe Snow, Kenny G and Peabo Bryson. Her television credits include E-Entertainment, Regis & Kelly.



Songstress Shirley Marshall will perform at NJPAC July 11.

Kathy Lee, The CBS Morning Show, NBC News with Al Roker and Rolanda.

Bill Withers' "Use Me." A songwriter, as well, she wrote eight of the tunes contained on the disc.

On July 11, Shirley will present her vocal stylings in a performance at New Jersey Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. She will be performing songs from her CD and by artists such as Gladys Knight, Patti LaBelle, and Anita Baker.

She will be backed by the band Roy Chew and the Crew from Showtime at the Apollo. The show will be complete with a horn section and dancers.

"The music is about romance," Shirley says. "It'll be a night that nipses hotter than July."

Shirley will perform in NJPAC's Victoria Theater. For more information, contact NJPAC's box office or call NJPAC Tickets by Phone at 886-466-5722.

Youth get inside look at theatre production

NEWARK — This summer The African Globe Theatre is pleased to present the Summer Works production of "Once On This Island" by Caryl Phillips.

This Island the Broadway musical. SummerWorks is a production workshop program which will enable them to explore their talents in acting, dance, music and technical production work.

The program successfully auditioned 15 High School students in the Newark and Essex County area. They will receive a scholarship to enroll in the workshop program which will enable them to explore their talents in acting, dance, music and technical production work.

The SummerWorks production of "Once On This Island" will be working with the selected students, 10 singers/dancers, scenic artists, and three production assistants. The fifteen students were selected from a group of students who qualified after they successfully auditioned at the African Globe Studios.

The workshop program begins on July 6, 1996 and runs through the summer. Students will work with professional directors, acting instructors, stage managers and scenic designers to produce the play at the Newark Symphony Hall, 2nd Floor Theatre. Performances will begin on July 22, 1996 to August 7, 1996.

"Unfortunately, not everybody sees his dedication. Here white people are dying by the millions, and here is a black man who wants to help them," they say. It is a group of these people that work towards preventing this brother from achieving his success."

Lewis, who is also a songwriter, has formed his own publishing company. "And I have so many songs that I have to do something with. Now is the time for me."

'Taming It Down' marks novel debut for journalist

NEW YORK — What happens to a young black woman who has spent her childhood in the black work environment? Southern community but then travels North to be educated and employed by white, middle-class intellectuals. She becomes thoroughly confused about who she is, where her loyalties lie. She slips out.

In her debut novel, *Taming It Down* (William Morrow) Kim McLarin describes how it feels to be black, female, well-educated, and trapped between two worlds. Heroina Hope Robinson, raised in Memphis, wins a scholarship to a prestigious New England prep school and continues her education at an equally prestigious university. Opportunity, however, comes at a high price. Hope never feels completely comfortable in the white, academic community and she worries that she is cutting herself off from her roots.

At the same time, she has difficulty accepting the rules and regulations that her black peers offer as an alternative.

As the story unfolds, 28-year-old Hope, now a reporter at a newspaper in Philadelphia, acknowledges the anger she has been harboring for years. Her anger is fueled by hostility in the newsroom where she works and her inability to advance at the pace of her fellow reporters. At the same time, Hope wrestles with the strong feelings she develops for two men, one an Afrocentric journalist at another newspaper, the other a white colleague in her office. *Taming It Down* is a story by an African-American woman who has herself reported for the New York Times, the Philadelphia Inquirer, and the Associated Press.

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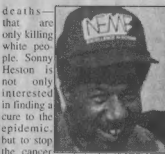
For some, it's a scary tale

By G.J. Mattox

"I've always been interested in reading and studying, but I've never been interested in writing until about 10 years ago," said Newark-born author Carlton Lewis. Once a long-distance truck driver, he spent those long delays and layovers during road runs reading instead of hanging out.

His first published work, *Pigmentation* (Vantage Press, \$10.95), is a thoughtfully written and thoroughly readable fictional account of a cancer research specialist, Dr. Charles "Sonny" Heston, who has lost one wife to cancer. Happily remarried, he finds himself caught between finding a cure for a devastating cancer epidemic that has virtually wiped out whole countries, and the sinister forces that want to block him from finding that cure.

Essentially, *Pigmentation* is the story about a man and a woman who love each other very much, but the circumstances of their times are very stressful. Lewis said, explaining his book. Lewis continues, "He's an African American, she's European, and they are married during a time when drastic atmospheric changes cause a tremendous number of cancer deaths that are only killing white people. Sonny Heston is not only interested in finding a cure to the epidemic, but to stop the cancer before it Carlton Lewis catches up with the woman he loves so dearly—a woman who just happens to be white."



Unfortunately, not everybody sees his dedication. Here white people are dying by the millions, and here is a black man who wants to help them," they say. It is a group of these people that work towards preventing this brother from achieving his success."

Lewis, who is also a songwriter, has formed his own publishing company. "And I have so many songs that I have to do something with. Now is the time for me."

Scoop Du Jour

"Places that I've been, things that I have seen. What you call nightmares are what I call dreams. Bad as that may seem, it's not gonna get worse. Love, slug... which one am I gonna get first? My journey's been a rough one and I'm not sure when it began, but the way it's looking, I kind of know how it's gonna end... N... will never win this whole rap thing is real. How is you've been I want that in '89. See and you shall find... DMX — circa, 1996

Irony rears its ugly head once again in the hip community. Last week, after Earl "DMX" Simmons' platinum album *It's Dark and Hell Is Hot* topped Billboard's pop chart, the dog motif-wielding rapper was arrested for raping and sodomizing a 29-year-old stripper after supposedly patronizing the club in which the frequent lap dancer works.

Just one week prior, DMX was shopping for a Dodge Durango, an early wedding present for Tashera Draighan, the five months pregnant mother of the couple's five-year-old son, Xavier. While en route to a Yonkers car dealership, DMX avowed his reverence for women. "I love women," he remarked while playing with his travel companion, Bobbi, a female pitbull. "Women give you insight. Some of my best friends are women."

The Teaneck, New Jersey resident appeared to be in good spirits at the 180.80 hearing (which is a hearing to determine if the district attorney has compiled enough evidence against the accused to build a case) on Monday, June 22. More than likely the matter will be heard before the Grand Jury, but until his next scheduled date in court, July 20, DMX is free to do whatever he pleases. With-out a doubt, a spokesperson from Def Jam Records, says that he will be performing in upcoming tour dates.

DMX, who is not commenting on the case, is going out on four late this month. This is not the first time the self-described "very angry" rapper will plead innocent. Prior convictions include drug-related charges and larceny. "Yep. I was a robber. I'm very angry. From not being charged right from day one with regards to the way the political and social system messes with black men in general. They try to treat all black men a certain way. But I wasn't greedy. I never robbed women or children. I have the utmost respect for women. I was robbing 'n' eat."

Acapulco Film Fest prepares for second run

By Asandra Hunter



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Robbin' the rich (those who "deserved it" according to a line from his hit single "Get Me Dog") and giving to the poor (himself)? Yes. But he could actually commit any of the violent crimes described in his album? "NO. People act as though my mentality is so limited that I could only mean the lyrics but I'm a lot of women who throw the sex at you are fake. I'll give a female fan a kiss on the cheek, but that's it. You gotta weigh the odds in my mind. I'm not one to get caught up in the wrong place with the wrong girl."

DMX's attorney Murray Richman, past president of the New York State Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers emphatically concurs with his client. "My client travels in packs and someone would have seen him at the club. There is no truth in any portion of this allegation."

Only time will tell if DMX is guilty or innocent. But while the truth separates itself from the junk, *It's Dark and Hell Is Hot* continues to sell.

NEW YORK — Following the success of the first annual Acapulco Black Film Festival, UniWorld Entertainment and the Black Filmmaker Foundation (BFF) announce the 1996 Acapulco Black Film Festival (ABFF). The second annual film festival will be held in Acapulco, Mexico, from July 13-19, 1996.

Byron Lewis, Chairman and CEO, UniWorld Group, Inc., and Founder of the Acapulco Black Film Festival, stated, "We must concentrate on making movies that are financially successful at the box office. By doing so, we can create an ongoing stream of targeted films that present a more balanced view of the African American Experience. Our festival has exceeded our expectations and realized its goal of introducing new films, made outside the Hollywood studio system, to African American movie-going audiences. We attracted highly successful actors, directors, producers, writers, and studio and music industry executives. The ABFF has become the catalyst to bring these people together."

A case in point is *How Plenty*, a film by 29-year-old writer/director, Lewis Chesler, screened at last year's festival, was picked up for distribution by Miramax Films after Edmonds Entertainment's Kenny "Babyface" and Tracey Edmonds acquired an interest in the film with an agreement to create the soundtrack. *How Plenty* is distributed by Miramax Films and is playing in theaters now. Nestor Miranda's film, *Destination Unknown*, also screened at the festival, went on to win the Grand Jury Prize at the 5th Hampton International Film Festival.

The 1996 ABFF festival program will include film screenings, informative panel discussions, a workshop series, a closing night awards show, as well as entertainment events that reflect the whermy and excitement of Acapulco.

Alejandro Gonzalez Molina, General Director, Acapulco Convention Center, stated, "Due to the great success of the First Black Film Festival held in Acapulco last year, a great honor for Mexico that the organizers of this event have decided to hold their Second Black Film Festival in our beautiful city once again."

Warrington Hurdin, President, Black Filmmaker Foundation, stated, "The old adage 'If you build it, people will come' was confirmed by the Acapulco Black Film Festival. The healthy attendance and enthusiastic response to last year's festival promises an extraordinary gathering this year. It's clear that people wanted a vacation experience where they could celebrate black cinema, meet and network with its creators. BFF is very proud of its participation in establishing the Acapulco Black Film Festival as the new landmark in the world of Black cinema."

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AR MACEDDON

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JULY 1ST

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RESOLUTION NO. 730A-98
DATE: 6/4/98

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Chosen Freeholders of the County of Union that it hereby adopted Resolution No. 10-98 on January 4, 1998 which was amended by Resolution No. 44-98 on January 15, 1998; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that it is hereby desired to amend Resolution No. 44-98 to revise the scheduled of regular meetings, which is attached hereto, and in accordance with N.J.S.A. 10-4-18; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of said amended schedule of meetings be posted by the Clerk of the Board in the place or places usually reserved for such public notices, mailed by the Clerk of the Board to the newspapers officially designated to receive such notices by the Board and filed by the Clerk of the Board with the Office of the County Clerk of Union County, all of the above to be accomplished within seven (7) days of the date of this Resolution in compliance with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10-4-18.

UNION COUNTY BOARD OF CHOSEN FREEHOLDERS

1998 MEETING SCHEDULE

MOST MEETINGS ARE HELD ON THURSDAY EVENINGS. AGENDA SESSIONS BEGIN AT 6:30PM AND REGULAR PUBLIC MEETINGS ARE HELD AT 7:00PM. IN THE FREEHOLDERS MEETING ROOM, 8TH FLOOR, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, ELIZABETHTOWN PLAZA ELIZABETH NEW JERSEY, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.

PERSONS REQUIRING A SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETER SHOULD CONTACT THE CLERK OF THE BOARD AT 408-957-4140, OR TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICE FOR THE DEAF RELAY SERVICE (908)527-1232.

AGENDAWORK SESSIONS

6:30 a.m.

JULY 8

AUGUST 13

SEPTEMBER 3

SEPTEMBER 17

OCTOBER 13

OCTOBER 15

NOVEMBER 5

DECEMBER 3

DECEMBER 17

REGULAR/PUBLIC MEETINGS

7:00 p.m.

JULY 23

AUGUST 27

SEPTEMBER 10

SEPTEMBER 24

OCTOBER 8

OCTOBER 22

NOVEMBER 12

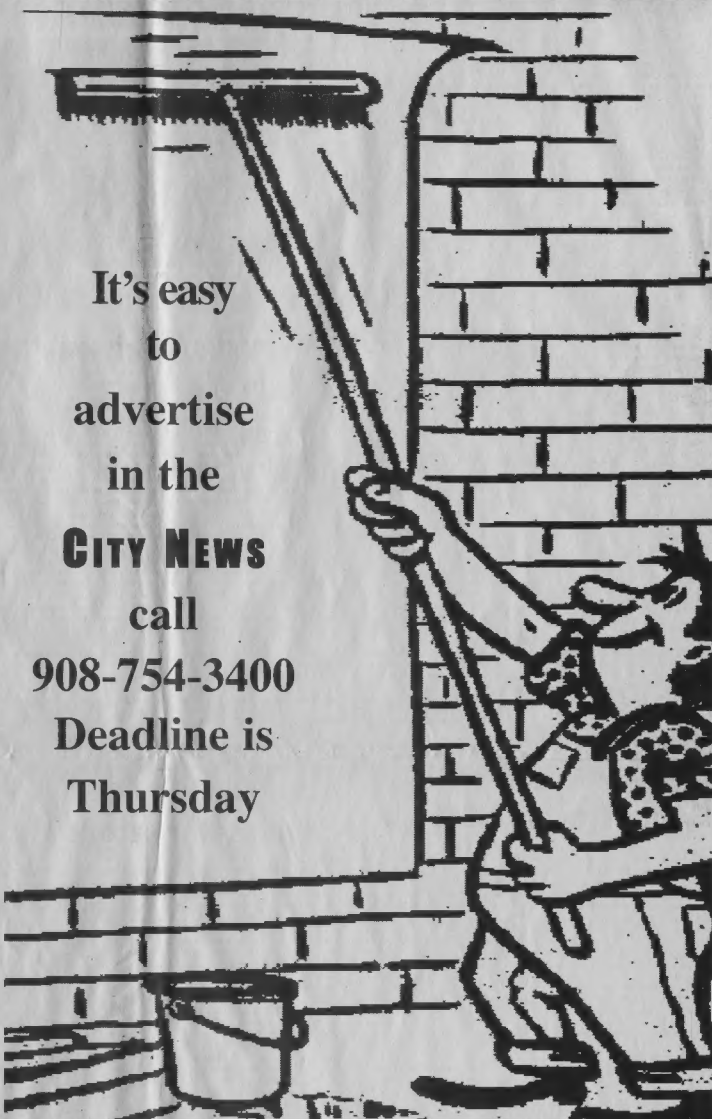
DECEMBER 10

DECEMBER 17

*COMBINED AGENDA SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING

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HELP WANTED SALES Sales experience preferred. We will train for advertising sales great growth opportunity must have transportation Send resume to: City News Attn: Advertising Dept. P.O. Box 191 Plainfield, NJ 07061 DEPUTY MANAGER ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT Under the general direction of the Township Manager the Deputy Manager will be responsible for the ongoing development, monitoring and implementation of the Township's Affirmative Action Plan. The overall supervision of the Human Resources Division, evaluation of training needs and implementation of Township-wide training programs, labor relations, staff development, merit system, benefits management, assessment and oversight of workers compensation system, time/payroll management, coordinating, planning and training for shared services, grievance management and special projects, related work as required. Minimum requirements include 15-20 years experience as a Human Resources Professional with a background in Human Management, Staff Development, Training, Total Quality Management, Organizational Development and Affirmative Action. Strong verbal and written communication skills, ability to work with people. Must have initiative, good organizational skills, and the ability to work independently. Salary range \$24,616.00 - \$2,461.00. Apply Township of Montclair, Terence J. Riedy, Township Manager, 205 Claremont, Montclair NJ 07042. Closing date July 17, 1998. Montclair is an Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer.	HELP WANTED SECTION 8 TECHNICIAN The Berkeley Township Housing Authority is seeking an experienced (a must) Technician for 25 Section 8 Certificate and to set up and operate Family Self Sufficiency Program and some Public Housing knowledge. Immediate opening. Over qualified need not apply. All resumes to be considered must be in by July 7, 1998 3:00 PM. The Berkeley Township Housing Authority is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Send resume to: Grace Theeing, Housing Manager, 44 Princeton Drive Bayville New Jersey 08721 or fax to (732) 280-7700 Sunday June 28, 1998 Wednesday July 1, 1998 Sunday July 6, 1998 INTERNS Full-time students with a 2.5 GPA and excellent communications skills who are interested in developing work experience send your resume to City News, Attn: Jan Johnson, P.O. Box 191, Plainfield, NJ 07061 or fax your resume to 908-753-1306. You will have the opportunity to learn hands-on experience in Microsoft Word, Adobe Photoshop, Act 5.0, QuarkXpress, writing, editing, scanning, filing, sorting, making phone calls. Some internships are paid. PROOFREADER Proofreaders are invited to submit your resume to Jan Johnson at City News, P.O. Box 191, Plainfield, NJ 07061. Experience is required.	HELP WANTED Teacher/Educator wanted To write and edit a 4-page, monthly National Teacher's Guide. At least two years of teaching experience necessary, preferably grades 6 and up. Send resume to: Y Teacher's Guide P.O. Box 191 Plainfield, NJ 07061 FREELANCE WRITERS Freelance writers are needed to cover newsworthy material. Send your resume to City News, Attn: Gilda Matthe, P.O. Box 191, Plainfield, NJ 07061. Experience required. Must have your own transportation. Newspaper delivery routes available throughout New Jersey call City News (908) 754-3400	HELP WANTED *"PHOTOGRAPHER" Freelance photographers wanted to cover events throughout New Jersey. Reimbursed for travel expenses. Must be responsible. Developing not necessary. We supply film. Willing to work with new photographers. Send resume and preferred work hours to: City News Personnel PO Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07060 **Graphic Designer** Must have some knowledge QuarkXpress and Photoshop on PC or MAC platforms and have two years experience working with Newspaper layout. Send resume to: City News Personnel PO Box 1774, Plainfield, NJ 07060 SUBSCRIBE to the #1 African-American Newspaper in N.J. CITY NEWS	HELP WANTED SEND YOUR CLASSIFIED ADS TO CITY NEWS *** CALL TODAY FOR OUR LOW, LOW RATES 908-754-3400 FOR SALE 1994 HONDA CIVIC EX 5-SPEED FULLY LOADED SUNROOF CHERRY RED Call 908-755-4711
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New Law for drug dealers with guns

TRENTON—Gov. Christie Whitman recently toughened Somerset County Jail and signed a tough new law that cracks down on drug dealers who use guns by hitting them with stiffer penalties and longer prison terms. The Governor called for the expanded penalties during her State of the State address in January.

The bill (A-1848) creates a new offense of possession to recognize the severity of the crime and doubles the maximum penalty - up to ten years - for carrying a gun while committing a drug offense.

"These strengthened penalties send a clear message: If you sell drugs and possess firearms, you will pay for it with a long prison sentence," Gov. Whitman said. "I am firmly resolved to making crime as painful as possible for the criminals - especially drug dealers."

Currently, drug dealers in possession of a weapon are typically charged with third or fourth-degree crimes. The new law makes committing a drug offense while in possession of a firearm a second-degree crime. Among the drug offenses covered by the law are being the leader of a drug trafficking network, maintaining or operating a controlled dangerous substance production facility, and manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing a controlled dangerous substance.

A second degree offense carries a prison sentence of between five and 10 years and a fine of \$1,000.

The bill was sponsored by Assemblyman John Hopteloff (R-Morris) and Assemblyman Peter Barnes (D-Middlesex). Senator Norman Robertson (A-Exeter) and Senator Diane Allen (R-Burlington/Camden).

Estate of embezzler repays hospital

CAMDEN (AP)—Cooper Hospital University Medical Center is getting \$1.5 million in restitution from the estate of an admitted embezzler who helped several millions from the hospital, prosecutors said recently.

The hospital will receive its share from a \$2.2 million payment from the estate of John H. Crispo Jr., said U.S. Attorney Faith S. Hochberg. The balance will be paid to the Internal Revenue Service and the state of New Jersey, she said.

Crispo, 57, of Vineland, pleaded guilty in July 1994 to federal charges that included paying bribes, aiding and abetting embezzlement, money laundering, tax evasion and conspiracy.

The \$1.5 million payment to Cooper represents the proceeds of funds stolen by Crispo from the hospital, Hochberg said.

Crispo operated a collection agency that handled Cooper accounts. He was among several defendants including high-ranking hospital executives who admitted involvement in the embezzlement scheme.

Authorities said at least \$3.8 million was bilked from the hospital through a network of false companies, phony invoices and money shifting. Some of the money was spent on girlfriends, cars, boats, racehorses and houses.

Crispo died in June 1995 before he was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Joseph H. Rodriguez. He had agreed to cooperate with prosecutors but had already liquidated more than \$1 million in property and other holdings before his death.

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Crispo

Parents clashed with child abuse cases; more to come

By Nancy Parelli
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON (AP)—About 1,700 abused children in New Jersey are ready to be freed for adoption. All they need is a lawyer and a judge.

These kids have been waiting for months because New Jersey doesn't have enough lawyers to handle the cases in which parental rights are being terminated.

And more children are on the way. As New Jersey, along with the rest of the nation, enters into a new era that penalizes states that leave children languishing in foster care, the courts may see caseloads double, said Laurie Facciarota, a spokeswoman for the state Division of Youth and Family Services.

Currently, it can take years for these cases to wind their way through the child protection and legal systems. But, under the new Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, states must begin terminating parental rights for all children who have been in foster care for 15 of the most recent 22 months.

States that leave abused children in limbo will risk losing federal funds. And states that move foster kids into adoptive homes efficiently will get more money.

"There are an awful lot of kids currently in the system that are waiting for placement," said James Louis, director of the Office of the L. Guardian, which oversees the lawyers in charge of representing abused children. "There's going to be a big push as more and more kids do get closer to the deadlines."

The court system is looking at what kind of additional judges they're going to need."

Judges, lawyers and officials from the state Division of Youth and Family Services say they are working together to determine exactly what those resources are. Child advocates say the need is critical.

Currently, DYFS has 45 district attorney generals (DAGs) working for the division. Rita Malley, spokeswoman for the state Division of Law and Public Safety, last year, they handled 600 cases, affecting 1,100 children and terminated parental rights.

Child advocates say the state needs more DAGs and criticize the attorney general's office for being slow to hire new attorneys. DYFS got money for the two new lawyers in August, but the attorney general's office has only just hired them. Malley said the lawyers had to go through the

division's hiring process and that takes time.

"The DAG office is woefully, inadequately staffed," said Rose Zeltzer, executive director of Children's Aid and Family Services in Bergen County. "It's time to either hire additional deputies to litigate or think of third private attorneys to litigate the not-so-difficult cases."

In the law guardian's office, which is part of the public defender's office, attorneys handle anywhere from 130 to 400 cases, Louis said.

The courts will also need more judges who are willing to take children away from chronically abusive parents. As Congress and the state

Legislature move toward emphasizing children's rights, New Jersey courts are moving in the opposite direction, some say.

Cal Zalkind, assistant director of the Association for Children of New Jersey, pointed to a recent appellate case in which judges reversed the termination of parental rights for a 4-year-old who had been in foster care since birth. Her mother abused drugs and made little effort to overcome her addiction.

A lower court ruled that parental rights should be severed, putting the way for her foster family to adopt her. The appeals court reversed that decision.

Trial under way in deputy attorney general sexual harassment case

TRENTON (AP)—A sexual harassment case pitting two deputy attorneys general against each other opened amid claims that the governor and top law enforcement official failed to deal with the problem.

Barbara Davis, a deputy attorney general, is suing her former boss Richard T. Carley, also a deputy attorney general, charging that Carley sexually harassed her to hasty convictions and legal gestures.

Attorneys representing Davis and Carley gave Day opening arguments in Mercer County Superior Court in a trial expected to last six to eight weeks.

Davis is seeking unspecified compensatory and punitive damages. In addition to Carley, the suit names the Attorney General's Office and a former co-worker, Gregory Sakowicz—who for failing to take the complaint seriously.

The lawsuit contends the harassment occurred between 1989 and 1993 while Davis and Carley both worked in the Division of Criminal Justice.

It contends that then-Attorney General Deborah Poritz, now chief justice of the state Supreme Court, failed to address the charges when she was first informed about them and failed to prevent retaliation against Davis by fellow workers after the lawsuit was filed.

Cliff Van Slyke, Davis' attorney, said both Poritz and Gov. Christie Whitman share blame for failing to act.

"You'll find that two of the most powerful people in the state showed indifference to the charges when she was behind closed doors," Van Slyke said.

Van Slyke said there were eight instances of sexual harassment. Davis said Carley touched her breasts several times, grabbed her buttocks in the office and made sexually suggestive remarks.

Carley also made an off-color comment when looking at nude photos of a female nurse victim during staff meetings to review evidence, Van Slyke said.

Carley denies harassing Davis. He says that Davis, who is now a medical records nurse, suffered no distress while working under him.

Cynthia Jacob, who is representing the Attorney General's Office, minimized Carley's behavior as "sophomoric" and said the Attorney General's Office conducted a proper investigation at the time of the complaint.

Jacob suggested Davis filed the suit only after she had been passed over for promotion.

Jacob said Carley and Davis were very friendly. She noted that when Carley was transferred, Davis threw him a going-away party. Van Slyke said Davis threw the party under duress.

Law school districts will get more money

TRENTON (AP)—About 300 school districts will share a total of \$17.6 million more in state aid this coming school year to help pay the interest on their school building loans, Gov. Christie Whitman announced recently.

But a couple of districts will end up losing money. New Brunswick is the biggest loser, with its aid dropping about \$5.1 million from \$5.9 million to \$0.8 million. Pittsford, in Salem County, is next in line, losing about \$2.1 million, going from about \$2.5 million to \$0.4 million.

West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District will also see its aid drop by about \$1 million, to \$489,000.

It's unclear why these towns are losing so much money. State education officials could not be reached for comment.

A bill designed to add Plainfield and Neptune to the list of "special needs" school districts cleared the

Assembly Education Committee recently. The bill is part of an ongoing effort to get lawmakers to give those districts the millions of dollars they received in state aid at one time. It is expected that the bill will get clearance by the lower house by July 31.

Most districts will get more money, with increases ranging from \$26 at Central Regional in Ocean County to \$1.94 million in Newark, the state's largest district. Others will see no change.

The additional aid brings the state a little closer to meeting its legal obligation to pay a portion of each district's debt service on school construction.

Currently, the state is paying about 10 percent of it, less, according to Peter Peretzman, education department spokesman. The additional \$17.6 million will bring the state up to 85 percent of its legal share.

The total amount of state aid for debt service on school construction will increase from \$95 million in the current school year to about \$133 million for the 1998-99 school year, Peretzman said.

Newark will get the largest increase, \$1.94 million, bringing total aid to about \$9.5 million. But Lenape Regional, with a debt service of \$1.94 million in Burlington County, will get the second highest increase. The district will get an additional \$749,492, boosting its debt service to \$2.36 million.

Other big winners include East Orange (\$571,651 increase), Perth Amboy (\$698,721 increase), Jersey City (\$656,724 increase), Hillsboro (\$613,556 increase), Irvington (\$655,294 increase), Washington Township, Gloucester County, (\$31,273 increase) and Middletown (\$403,172 increase) and Trenton (\$403,172 increase).

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Woman admits killing child, blames DYFS

By S. Mitra Kalita
Associated Press Writer

TRENTON (AP)—Betty Marie Barr took parenting classes. She spent time with her children under the supervision of a caseworker. And she had a psychological evaluation. It was enough for the Division of Youth and Family Services to return the ex-convict's six children to her care.

But Barr was overwhelmed, her lawyer says, and DYFS didn't respond quickly enough when she called for help one morning last spring. That's when authorities say she slammed her 2-year-old daughter headfirst against a door frame, killing her.

Barr, 26, pleaded guilty to aggravated manslaughter. She had been charged with first-degree murder by her lawyer arranged a plea bargain with Mercer County prosecutors for the reduced charge, which carries a maximum 15-year sentence.

DYFS officials would not discuss Barr's case, but a spokeswoman said that an agency error in handling the case was possible.

"Around the time of this death, (division director) Michele Guhl identified a number of weaknesses within the system," said spokeswoman Wendi Patella.

In fact, just three days after the 2-year-old girl, Janika, was reunited with her mother, DYFS removed Barr's then 7-year-old son from the home because of evidence of abuse, said her lawyer, Robin Kay Lord.

Barr's five other children remained in her custody. Ten days later on April 7, 1997, Janika died and Barr was arrested. Her remaining children, ages 3 to 11, then were put into foster care.

In court proceedings, Barr said she was stressed and depressed that day because the electricity had been turned off, the children were crying and messing up the house. She said she tried to call DYFS over the weekend and early on the day of the child's death for help, but there was no response.

In court proceedings, Barr said she was stressed and depressed that day because the electricity had been turned off, the children were crying and messing up the house. She said she tried to call DYFS over the weekend and early on the day of the child's death for help, but there was no response.

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